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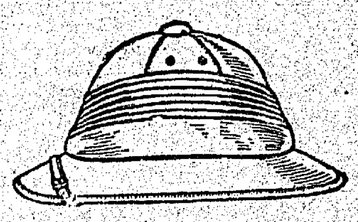

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CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION FORMALLY INAUGURATED.

UNOFFICIAL COUNCILLORS ON THEIR DEPRESSING EXPERIENCES.

Last evening a meeting was held at the Theatre Royal, Hongkong, for the purpose of formally inaugurating the Hongkong Constitutional Reform Association, passing the proposed rules and regulations, and electing the officers and Committee. Considering the prosaic character of the proceedings there was an extremely encouraging attendance, numbering probably about 200 members of the British community. The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak presided and was supported on the platform by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. A. S. D. Cousland (hon. secretary *pro tem.*)

The Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK was the first speaker. After reminding those present that the forms of membership could be filled up and placed in a ballot box at the door upon leaving, he said a speech was made by the Prime Minister last week which amply justified the calling of that meeting, and he proposed to quote very briefly from that speech, which was made at the memorable Guildhall meeting. Referring to the lessons the war had taught financiers, manufacturers, soldiers and sailors, the Premier continued: "This great World convulsion has altered their ideas about trade and pursuits, and the future of the country depends upon how much politicians have learned. (Cheers) I have heard politicians who think that when the war is over the same old machinery will be reestablished and the same old methods applied. When the post-war reconstruction begins I hope, trust and pray that we are not to dive into the pigeon-holes of any party for dust-laden precedents and programmes. Let us think out the best methods for ourselves in face of the searching facts, of which we knew nothing before the war. (Applause.) We are a thousand years older and wiser since the war, and the experience of generations has been crowded into just a few winters, and we should be unworthy of the great destiny to which Providence has called this generation if we throw away all that for the sake of formulas framed before the Flood. (Applause.) Things cannot remain where they were. It may be said that the shadowy character of the relations between us and the Dominions and the great territories of the East have produced their real cohesion. That was all very well before they made great sacrifices. They have now established claims to a real partnership. Henceforth, effective consultation must be only on the basis of co-operation. If our action brings them into trouble, as it has, and it costs them millions and precious lives, they must henceforth be consulted before we act. (Applause.) Methods must be carefully considered. A great war is not the best time for thinking out perhaps new constitutions, but our counsels and our Empire must be a reality."

Now, gentlemen—proceeded the speaker—those are the considered words of one of the greatest Prime Ministers that Great Britain has ever had. They are the products of the war and of the age. And they show already how far we have travelled on the basis of development. He says that we cannot go back to the things as they were before the war, and that precisely why we are gathered here this afternoon, to form ourselves into an Association called the Constitutional Reform Association of Hongkong. (App.) It is the day of businessmen, and at last the responsible Government of Great Britain has realised this point in a way in which it has never done before. And I would remind you that at the very outset of the war the Prime Minister and his Government had the wisdom to call into consultation the greatest financial and business brains which our Empire had within its call within the precincts of London, and as a result of that consultation a moratorium was declared which restored order out of chaos throughout Great Britain. He also called together the heads of the great railway organisations throughout Great Britain, and as a result of their deliberations and assistance we placed, within a few hours, no less than 30,000 men upon the shores of France. This action was followed by the appointment of business heads for the control of our munitions departments, and so on as the war developed, the call for the business brains of our Empire has gone forth and men have been found for the needs. And as a result of that I believe we have reached a point from which we shall never recede, the old days of musty party politics to a large extent have gone, and perhaps as the result of this war we shall see an Empire welded solidly together and represented by a business Government and Parliament. (Applause.) Now, gentlemen, no-one realises more than we do who are calling for constitutional reform in Hongkong, that it is not the moment to press our claim to its ultimate issue. Even the Prime Minister himself admits that it is not the moment, but in the course of his speech he gives utterance to the point in a most definite and clear form, that the voice of the great Colonial dependencies of the Empire must be consulted and will be consulted in any part of the policy of the Empire which vitally affects them. (Applause.) And although this is but a small Crown Colony, the things which we have done in this war are not wholly unworthy of us, and we think we have a right to say that as a result of those efforts, and as a result of many years' large military contributions, we have a right to be heard in the councils of the Empire, even though our voice be small. (Applause.) I do believe that as one result of this war we are likely to see the delegation of local affairs to local authorities in Great Britain, and that Parliament will be made into a sort of federated Parliament to which every Colony will send its representative, and I for one do not see why there should not be a Member of Parliament for Hongkong. (Applause.) There are plenty of men who have gone Home, amongst the great men who have been referred to, who are capable of ably representing us already, and there will be great men in the future who could amply protect any required need in connection with the Colony. (Applause.) Briefly, gentlemen, what we are contending for at the moment is the right—and I pledge my word that we shall push to the issue as soon as the time comes—of greater representation of the public in the first place on the Legislative Council. (Applause.) As the representative of the Chamber of Commerce, although my experience has been but short, I can tell you that it is disheartening in the extreme for your representative to go to the Council well knowing that the issue which he may propose for the good of the Colony as it is conceived by him—and I claim he will not be fool enough to go there and represent it if he was not practically sure of public feeling behind him—will be turned down by the official majority, which says definitely, "Your way is barred and you cannot get beyond it." (A voice—Shame.) But it is due perhaps to a certain extent to you that I should explain—and I do so because His Excellency thinks I have not made my point clear, and above all I desire to be fair and just—that when an unofficial proposal is turned down by the official majority, the entire papers connected therewith and every article in the papers associated with it, are sent home for the consideration of the Secretary of State. I say this in fairness to His Excellency, who, I am perfectly certain, does not attempt in any way to colour the impression which they might convey. We might be asked—I have been asked personally—what would be the franchise for such increased representation on the Legislative Council, and possibly the Executive Council later, although that is a matter for further consideration. I think we are agreed that the only basis upon which the franchise for such an election can reasonably be based would be the jurors' list, including such exceptions as occur year by year of necessity. In the second place, this Association is formed, or we hope will be formed, with the desire at the present moment of obtaining increased representation at Home on any Imperial Council which deals with questions affecting the Colonies as a whole and this Colony in particular. Already on the Imperial Council we have Mr. C. H. Ross, who at one time was head of Jardine, Matheson & Co. here. He is acting as the representative at the request of the Chamber of Commerce. But I think we ought to go further than that and either appoint him representative of the entire Colony or seek somebody else for that position—(applause)—because there are questions wider even than the Chamber of Commerce, although I do believe that that body does faithfully and honestly represent the majority of the business opinion in the Colony, and I am perfectly certain its advice is given in questions of this nature in a disinterested manner, and with the desire to serve the Colony as a whole. (Applause.) In the third place, we desire to form this Association in order that it may keep a vigilant eye upon all matters of local interest. (Hear, hear.) When such questions come up in the Council as recently came up in connection with the hospital administration, the support of such an Association will be of inestimable value to the representative, whether he be the representative of the Chamber of Commerce or the Justices of the Peace, who is advocating the reform. And I go further and say that upon any question which arises in connection not only with hospital reforms, or sanitary reform, or street improvements, or anything of that nature, that it is our desire to call such a meeting as this together to obtain your views upon the matter, and to go to the Council backed by the united vote of such a meeting. I am perfectly certain that any recommendation so backed would go a great deal further than has been the case in the past. (Applause.) The voice of public opinion is one that it is, perhaps, difficult to arouse, but once it has been aroused the value of it cannot possibly be over-estimated, and is very likely to produce reforms which would not be got in any other way. Now, gentlemen, the advantages of combined public opinion were so clearly indicated last week in connection with the resolution to exclude Germans from our Colony for a period of years, that henceforth it cannot possibly be said that there is no public opinion or public voice in Hongkong. (Applause.) Given the time and the hour, I believe that it will be called forth just as forcibly as it was this day last week. (Applause.) The vital principle which we wish to lay down most definitely is this—that every department in connection with the Government is here for the public interest. (Applause.) That is a point which needs most clearly recognising. We know well that magnificent service has been rendered by the heads of departments in the past, and that, generally speaking, the various departments are well-managed to-day, but there must be some cleavage from time to time, occasions when the public does not see eye to eye with the Government, and when we think more can be done. Then it is that the Reform Association will come into force, and you will be asked to proclaim by your voice as to whether you think things are right or not. (Applause.) We shall ask later, when the time comes, for a larger control in things which most effect us, and although we do not seek, and shall not seek, to interfere in any question of Imperial welfare, and would not presume to do so, we do say that upon the lines of municipal control we are entitled to a voice. (Applause.) It would be idle to say that every department in this Government is run as ably as it can be, and there is little doubt that lessons can be learned from the model settlement in Shanghai, which is entirely under business control, and that some of its methods could with advantage be adapted to this Colony. (Applause.) When questions are asked in connection with grievances which the public has, we are determined not to have them turned down by an official majority with an answer which is really no answer at all to the question put. (Applause.) I will now call upon the Hon. Mr. Pollock to address you. (Loud applause.)

The Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, having expressed his pleasure at addressing the assembly on the inauguration of the Association with proper rules and regulations, said that it had required some control of patience on his part during the past few months to refrain from bringing forward definite proposals to bring the Society formally into being. But he felt—and he thought that even the most enthusiastic would share the feeling—that the questions connected with the great war that was raging should come first, and that was why, though it had gone against the grain, he had decided that it was only right and proper that there should be a delay interposed between the rejection of the recent petition and the submission of another to the Secretary of State or the House of Commons upon the question of greater representation of the public on the Councils of the Colony. He thought that time had proved the wisdom of the course pursued, because at the present moment they found themselves in the position that constitutional reform could be successfully launched with a great weight of public feeling behind it. (Hear, hear.) In dealing with the matter now they were taking the tide at the flood and they believed that the destiny of the Association would be a forward one now, and that they would be able, by the aid of this Association, to accomplish things for the good of the Colony which they all loved so much. (Applause.) There were practically three aims and objects in connection with the Association. Two of these they could put into operation practically at once. The first was to promote as far as they could everything which was of municipal interest and importance; the second was to press on the Home authorities the claims of Hongkong to be represented on any Imperial Council or Association to be formed, and also to express their views now upon post-war trade policy. The third object was to increase representation on the Councils of the Colony, but to that he would refer later. With regard to the first two aims, he thought with the Chairman that that body would have considerable weight in any important municipal matter, and if that had been the sole object of the Association it would have fully justified them in bringing it into existence. (Applause.) Dealing with the question of pressing upon the Home Authorities the claims of Hongkong to be represented on any Imperial Council or Association to be formed, the hon. gentleman said that as the Chairman had pointed out, they had now in support of representation no less great a person than the Prime Minister of Great Britain. (Applause.) He had expressed himself in no uncertain terms upon the fact that they must not slavishly follow the precedents of the past and that the Home country owed a great debt to the Empire in this war that must be discharged. The Empire must no longer be held in leading-strings. Moreover, the Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P., who now occupied a leading position in the opposition in the House of Commons, had contributed an article to the *Nineteenth Century* in which he said: "Unless the British Empire stands for the right of people of European descent to control fully their own destinies it stands for nothing." (Applause.) And Mr. Samuel, after advocating the formation of an Imperial Cabinet with representatives from the Great Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, pointed out the necessity for an Imperial Assembly to be constituted also, and urged that in that Assembly seats should be found not only for the representatives of the great Dominions and members of the Imperial Executive but also for delegates from India, Egypt and the Crown Colonies in such numbers, and chosen by such methods, as might be decided on. Those last words were an exact quotation from the article. So they found that leading men on both sides in the House of Commons were agreed that in the future the Empire as a whole, and not merely the great Dominions, ought to be represented in an Imperial Assembly. Therefore, he thought, they had every justification now for pressing that matter forward. The third aim and object of the Association—not necessarily the third in importance, but third in order because it would not be wise to press it forward at the moment—sought to put forward the claim of the public that there should be greater representation of the public on the Councils than at present. It was quite clear that before any further petition was sent Home the Association must consider the matter from all sides so the petition might represent the collective wisdom and suggestions of members of the Association. No doubt they would receive a great number of suggestions from letters in the local Press, and in regard to that he would like to remark that he hoped people with suggestions would not be content to stand outside in the outer darkness and throw bricks at the Association, but would come inside and join the enlightened company, and thus place themselves in a position to have a full and fair opportunity of bringing forward their views. He was not so foolish as to imagine that the last petition sent home, for which he was mainly responsible, was the ultimate quintessence of wisdom, but felt certain that when another petition was forwarded it would be possible, with the help of the Association and others, whether they were conservative, radical, moderate or extreme, to make it thoroughly representative of public opinion. In that matter they wanted to push together. He did not propose to offer a single suggestion at that meeting as to the terms of any petition, for he wanted all to help in considering the matter.

They might take counsel afresh. Personally he felt that the general principle of greater representation was so strong that it could amply repel any adverse criticism which could be levelled against it. The question of the details, however, was a difficult and complicated one, and in determining this they wanted the united intellect and wisdom of the Colony. The position of an unofficial member of the Legislative Council at the present time could only be described as an exceedingly depressing one. They could not imagine how hopeless it seemed to be—no matter how eloquent they were, or thought they were—to achieve anything when they were always in a hopeless minority. They might work as much as they liked, and work up their subject as much as they liked, but as soon as the fiat went forth from the chair that the motion by the unofficial members was to be defeated it was just as much automatically defeated as if a penny were put in the slot. He hoped that in the course of a few months they would see things returning to a more normal condition at Home, and if there appeared to be a reasonable prospect of obtaining a hearing they might be quite sure that the question of forwarding a fresh petition would be promptly taken in hand. (Applause.) He impressed upon the more eager—amongst whom he included himself—that they must exercise a little more patience, as it was of no use, when everybody's hands were full of the war, to send Home a petition asking them to consider what Hongkong wanted in the way of greater representation on the Legislative Council. It would be wiser to wait for a favourable opportunity, which, no doubt, would come as time went on. He believed that the moderate opinion in the Colony would gradually veer round to their point of view if patience were exercised and they would be able to go before the authorities at Home as a united Colony determined in the cause of constitutional reform. (Loud applause.)

Clause 7 of the rules and regulations was amended so as to give power to add to the numbers of the Committee without limit. After this the Chairman proposed that the rules and regulations as printed be adopted.

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded this, and it was unanimously agreed to.

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock proposed that the Hon. Mr. Holyoak be the first President of the Association. In doing so he remarked that there was only one man for the post, and that was Mr. Holyoak, who had shown, since he had been a member of the Legislative Council, that he was a very staunch supporter of anything connected with the interests of the Colony. (Applause.)

Mr. H. Humphreys seconded and the proposal was carried amid applause.

In acknowledging the compliment, Mr. Holyoak remarked that he had present his hon. friend, Mr. Pollock, to be the first President of the Association, but he had replied that a business association must have a business man at its head, and so he accepted under strong pressure, being more bashful than probably some of them gave him credit for. In his humble capacity he would do all he could for the Association.

On the proposition of Mr. Ormiston, seconded by Mr. E. A. M. Williams, the Hon. Mr. Pollock was elected Vice-President of the Association.

Mr. E. A. M. William was elected Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. John Bentley Hon. Secretary.

The following Committee was also chosen:—Messrs. F. B. L. Bowley, A. G. Coppin, A. Forbes, W. L. Pattenden, A. S. D. Cousland, C. M. Ede, H. Humphreys, E. Ormiston, D. Templeton, and C. D. Wilkinson.

The Chairman remarked that it had been fully realised that that Committee was by no means complete, but the simple truth was that a great many gentlemen whom they hoped to see on the Committee—he would not say they were "sitting on the fence," but were rather suspicious, and were exceedingly anxious to know what would happen at that meeting before saying "yes" or "no." (Laughter.) He hoped that, as a result of that meeting, their suspicions would be removed and that they would come forward and co-operate heartily in the aims which the Association had in view. (Applause.) They hoped to add many more names to the Committee during the next few days, and, as it was desirable to make the Committee as widely representative as it could possibly be, they would be exceedingly glad to receive nominations from anyone, by post or "chit" book, of gentlemen whom they might think ought to be on the Committee as representing a part of the community which, perhaps, had not yet been touched. "We do not want any hole-in-the-corner committee," added the Chairman amid applause. In conclusion he invited anyone present who wished to do so to address the meeting.

There being no response to this invitation, the Chairman said:—"I thank you for your attendance. I hope this will mean better days for Hongkong." (Applause.)

A vote of thanks having been accorded to the Chairman on the initiative of Mr. G. C. Moxon, the meeting dispersed.

COMPANY MEETING.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

The 36th ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the above was held at the office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., General Agents, yesterday. The Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton presided, and those also present were:—The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Messrs. C. S. Cubbay, H. P. White, and F. Maitland (Consulting Committee), and Messrs. W. E. Clarke, H. W. Looker, Ho Fook Ho Kom Tong, Lo Cheung Shui, Ho Leung, D. V. Steavenson, G. K. Haxton, Lo Man Hing, Ho Kwong, Ho Shi Kit, and Chui Siu Nam, with Mr. L. N Leefe (Secretary).

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, after which

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, when we held our meeting a year ago the hope was expressed that the war would have been brought to a conclusion before the time for holding our 36th annual meeting had come round. That hope has, unfortunately, not been fulfilled. The war has pursued with increasing vigour its bloody course, and we have had to continue to pilot the fortunes of this Company through abnormal times and difficulties. The perils of the seas have been greater than ever, ships of neutrals and belligerents alike have been targets for the enemy's submarines, whilst the ordinary dangers of navigation have been vastly enhanced by the extinguishing of lights and other similar precautions. Financial conditions have likewise reflected these unusual times. First class securities, under the influence of national borrowings at the rate of five per cent., and even for a short period at six per cent., have had to find a new and unaccustomed level, whilst the fluctuations of our local currency have raised the value of the Hongkong dollar to a plane which has reduced the equivalent of our sterling figures by no less than twenty-five per cent. In the two working accounts for 1915 and 1916 respectively, you will see that the office has made payments to its supporters of as nearly as possible five million dollars in respect of losses. Nevertheless, at the close of the working results of the year 1915, after a twenty-four months' experience, we find the office with a surplus of not less than $813,993.89. We consider that $363,993.89 should prove adequate to meet further payments upon the 1915 account, and this sum is to be passed to the credit of Underwriting Suspense Account. An interim dividend of $16 per share was distributed in respect of the account a year ago, and, after paying a further final dividend of $7, there remains a sum of $200,000 to be passed to the credit of Re-insurance Fund. I do not like to say much about 1916 at this period, but the balance of over $2,700,000 standing at credit certainly permits of the payment of an interim dividend of $18 for that year, whilst the promise of a satisfactory final result seems to me encouraging. Turning to the balance sheet, you will see that we have continued to invest all available monies in War Loan, and the item of British, Indian and Colonial Government Bonds and Stocks has risen from £99,000 to £261,000. The Foreign Government Loans we hold are either selected public issues of our Allies, or are compulsory deposits to enable us to do business in other countries. All the investments we had which come under the British Government Scheme instituted for the purpose of steadying exchange between America and Great Britain have been placed by us at the disposal of the British Government, and you will see that we supported the local War Loan to the extent of $100,000, of which $75,000 only was disbursed when the accounts were made up. We have likewise during the year made a donation to War Charities of $5,000, which, I doubt not, has your approval. Gentlemen, I do not think that there is any other item on which I can usefully dwell, but I shall be glad to answer, if possible, any question arising out of the accounts which shareholders may wish to put. Mr. D. W. Craddock recently resigned his seat on the Consulting Committee in consequence of his decision not to again make Hongkong a permanent residence, and we have been sorry to lose the benefit of his counsel and advice. I have no doubt that you will agree to my taking the report and accounts as read, and I now therefore move:—That the report and accounts as presented, including the payment of a final dividend in respect of the year 1915 of $17 per share, and an interim dividend in respect of the year 1916 of $18 per share; the addition of $363,933.89 to the underwriting suspense account; and of $200,000 to the re-insurance fund be adopted and passed.

Mr. CLARK, in seconding, said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, it gives me much pleasure to second the motion which has just been proposed. The results of the year's operations are very satisfactory, and gratifying as this fact is to shareholders, it must be equally so to the management. I have been consulting past records of this Company's progress, and I see that in the last five years the assets of the office have been more than doubled, and the premium income has increased to an even greater extent. This is unmistakable evidence that the Company is more than maintaining its position amidst the competition which must get increasingly severe every year. A particularly welcome feature of the accounts is the ease with which the Company pays its present dividend. Of course, shareholders never mind an increase, but I do not think that the wisdom of waiting till normal times are restored and, during the intervening period, adding to the Company's resources, can be called in question by any one. I offer my congratulations on the success of the year's working, for the "Canton" is a credit to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., the General Agents, and to the Consulting Committee. I now have pleasure in seconding the resolution.

(*Continued at foot of next column.*)

The resolution was then put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. E. Shellim and Messrs. F. Maitland and H. P. White were re-elected to the Consulting Committee, on the proposition of Mr. HO KOM TONG, seconded by Mr. D. V. STEAVENSON.

On the proposition of Mr. LOOKER, seconded by Mr. HAXTON, Messrs. H. Percy Smith and A. R. Lowe were re-elected auditors at a remuneration of $500 each.

This was all the business, and the Chairman announced that dividend warrants were now ready and could be had on application.

CHINESE DETECTIVE MURDERED.

A Chinese detective in the Santin district was murdered on Tuesday by being shot through the head by one of seven men whom he was searching. About 1.15 p.m. on Tuesday the detective saw seven men coming across the Samchun river in the ferry boat, towards British territory. His suspicions were aroused and he went down to the shore, and met three of the men who had landed. The detective began to search them, and while so doing one of the men drew a revolver and shot him through the head at close range, death being instantaneous. The men then returned to the ferry boat, threw the ferryman into the river, re-crossed the river, and made off into Chinese territory.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

OPIUM.

A fine of $150 was imposed upon a Chinese sailor who was found leaving the str. *Laisang* with 12 taels of opium dross in his possession.

DISORDERLY EUROPEAN.

An European ship's officer who disturbed the night in Kowloon by his disorderly conduct did not appear to answer the charge, and his bail of $20 was estreated.

THEFT OF A CLOCK.

Dismissed on a charge of harbouring a married woman a Chinese was charged with stealing a clock, the property of the same woman. Mr. Mattingley appeared to defend, and the case was remanded.

HONEST CONSTABLE.

When apprehended for causing an obstruction on the Praya a Chinese offered the Indian constable $1 to say nothing about the affair. The constable took the $1—he also took the Chinese to the Police Station, and Mr. Wood fined him $25 in all, or, in default, five weeks' hard labour.

OPIUM LABELS.

A Chinese of the coolie class was charged with having in his possession a quantity of spurious opium pot labels, and also with resisting arrest.

Mr. Lloyd, from the Imports and Exports Department, said that the labels were the best imitations he had ever seen. It was a long time before their spurious character was discovered.

The case was adjourned, bail being fixed at $2,000.

"OUR LITTLE BIT" SOCIETY.

"Our Little Bit" Society forwarded the following yesterday through Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. for Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, 2, Cavendish Square, London, W.:—

192 roll bandages, 45 suits pyjamas, 29 pairs surgical stockings, 6 quilts, 8 pillows, 6 pairs stretcher boots, 6 pairs knee-caps, 8 mufflers, 15 caps, 59 milk covers, 41 eye bandages, 2 pairs mittens, 2 helmets, 3 floor-cloths, 6 many-tail bandages, 6 handkerchiefs, and 6 ties.

The following acknowledgment has been received of a parcel containing 3,821 articles, including bandages, swabs, garments and woollens:—

"The Little Bit Workers Society,
Kowloon, Hongkong.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your consignment, for which I enclose official receipt.

Will you please accept our most grateful thanks for this valuable gift. The kind interest which you take in our work is much appreciated by us here in England. The demands made on our resources now are extremely heavy, and in the coming advance we are likely to be still more heavily requisitioned. Please convey to your workers our cordial expression of thanks.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) MYRA M. GIBSON.

For General Manager for Princess Henry of Battenberg, President and Head of Depot, The St. Marylebone War Hospital Supply Depot.

CHUNG LING SOO.

Chung Ling Soo and Company arrived in Hongkong yesterday, and the staff were busily engaged transferring an enormous amount of baggage, amounting to three hundred tons, from the steamer to the theatre. The production is under the personal direction of Mr. Maurice E. Bandman, who travelled with the Company from Singapore.

MR. DUFAULT'S FINAL CONCERT.

A well-filled and very enthusiastic house bade farewell to Mr. Paul Dufault at the Theatre Royal last night. A well selected and enjoyable programme was presented, every item of which was encored. At the close Mr. R. Sutherland expressed the warm appreciation of the music-loving community for the artistic treat which Mr. Dufault, Miss Pauline Bindley and Mr. Ernest Empson had afforded them. These remarks were heartily endorsed by the whole audience.

CORRUPTION SCANDALS AND THE CHINESE CABINET.

According to the Chinese Press, in the bribery case against the Minister of Finance and others, the Procurator made a search of the house occupied by Dr. Chen Chin-tao, now in custody, and secured, amongst other papers, several letters, the contents of which indicate that certain M.Ps. on the Finance Committee in the House of Representatives had extorted money in connection with the passing of the Budget. The prosecution, it appears, will have to bring to light the malpractice of many other persons, both official and unofficial.

Although both Hsu Shih-ying and Wang Fo-wei, Minister and Vice-Minister of Communications, have been denounced by Parliament and others as having accepted bribes, Mr. Wang Fo-wei and his staff, upon return from their mission to Japan, calmly presented themselves before Premier Tuan Chi-jui and submitted a report of their mission.

A report is current in Peking that in the transaction of selling the Shanghai Dockyard (?) to a certain Power, which transaction was recently carried through by Admiral Tsao Chin-hsiang, Minister of Marine, at the price of $15,000,000, the amount actually handed to the Government was $10,000,000. It is curious to note that a number of bribery cases should be unearthed almost at the same time, one following rapidly upon another. There is some suspicion that party intriguing may have something to do with these sudden discoveries, with the object of overthrowing the Tuan Chi-jui Cabinet, although official corruption has doubtless reached its zenith at this juncture, owing to the attention of the people being somewhat distracted by the prolongation of the European war and the continuance of political unrest within this country.

Mr. Fan Yuan-lien, Minister of Education and concurrently Acting Minister of Interior, has tendered his resignation of both the posts. Persuasion from the President and the Premier has failed to have any effect upon that Minister who is quite determined to throw up even the portfolio of the Minister of Education. If the rumour that other Ministers are desirous of retiring from the limelight of the official stage to avoid trouble should be proved, a Cabinet crisis may result.

CHINA'S DIPLOMATIC PROBLEM COMMISSION.

This Commission sat on April 26th. The general belief is that the Commission is now quite in favour of a declaration of war on Germany. The subjects discussed included the disposal of the salt revenue and how to get Dr. Yen released from Berlin. Although the Dutch Minister had informally assured the Chinese Government on behalf of Germany that Dr. Yen would not be detained, it is still a fact that he has been unable to leave Berlin, as Dr. Yen sent a telegram from that place dated April 16th, stating that the German Government had asked him to ascertain what would be done wth regard to the indemnities China should have paid Germany in March.

SHIPPING NEWS.

JAPANESE VESSEL SOLD TO BRITISH.

The T.K.K. steamer *Buyo Maru*, which is now lying in Nagasaki, has been sold to the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company (the *Nagasaki Press* believes). The *Buyo Maru* is a tank steamer of 5,238 tons gross register and was built for the Toyo Kisen Kaisha by Messrs. Armstrong, Whatworth, of Newcastle, England, in 1908, at which time the Japanese company expected to run its San Francisco liners with oil fuel. Of late she has been under charter to the Standard Oil Company. Messrs. Dodwell & Co. are acting as agents in effecting the transfer of the vessel, which has been renamed the *Delphinula*.

Commencing next month the N.Y.K. European Liners will be despatched for Liverpool and London alternately, steamer by steamer.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

GENERAL PARADE.

There will be a general parade of all units under the D.S.P. (R.) on May 18th, at 5.30 p.m.

COMPANY PARADES, CENTRAL, 5.45 P.M.

Monday, May 7th—No. 2 Company.

Tuesday, May 8th—No. 3 Company and Ambulance Platoon.

Wednesday, May 9th—No. 1 Section and No. 2 Platoon. Also No. 2 Section at Water Police Station.

Thursday, May 10th—Ambulance Platoon at Tung Wah Hospital, 6 p.m.

White uniform with helmets will be worn on these parades.

RECRUITS' PARADES, 5.45 P.M.

Monday, May 7th, and Wednesday, May 9th—Recruits of No. 3 Company and of No. 2 Platoon.

Tuesday, May 8th, and Friday, May 11th—Recruits of No. 2 Company.

White uniform with caps and covers will be worn on these parades.

POLICE SCHOOL.

All members of Classes IX., X., and XI. will attend, in plain clothes, at Queen's College at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 11th, for examination by Mr. T. H. King, A.S.P.

Members due for patrol duty on this date will attend the examination and not report for duty.

BAND PRACTICES.

Monday, May 7th, and Thursday, May 10th, at 6 p.m.

H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint Dr. F. Lindsay Woods to be Assistant Surgeon Superintendent of Police (Reserve).

The Assistant Surgeon Superintendent can be seen at the office of the Surgeon Superintendent on any week day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

(Sd.) F C. JENKIN,
D.S.P. (R.)

3rd May, 1917.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

ESTABLISHED 1850. TELEPHONE 1741, 1742.

FURNISHING DEPT.

LOOSE COVERS A SPECIALITY.

NOTE!

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A CONSIGNMENT OF

PRINTED TAFFETAS & CRETONNES

IN NEWEST STYLES AND COLOURINGS.

CALL AND SEE THEM
OR
SEND FOR PATTERNS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

18

DRINK
"BULL DOG" LAGER BEER.
SUPERIOR TO ANY GERMAN LAGER BEER EVER BREWED.
BRITISH THROUGHOUT.

Brewed in Great Britain. Bottled by British Labour.

OBTAINABLE AT:—
Wing On Co., Ltd.
Sincere Co., Ltd.
Sun Co., Ltd.
Cheong Tai.
Nam Hing Loong.
Ty Sing.
Sang Tai.
Kwan Tye.
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Obtainable in Canton from
SINCERE CO., LTD.
Stocked by
THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

PRICES DUTY PAID.
QUARTS—$20.00 per case of 4 dozen.
or $5.10 per Dozen.
PINTS — $26.50 per case of 8 dozen.
or $3.40 per dozen.

Admitted to be the Best Lager Beer brewed.

FRESH STOCKS JUST ARRIVED.

[467-2

Wm. Powell Ltd
TELEPHONE 348

BABY-CARS
PERAMBULATORS
MAIL-CARTS
FOLDING-CARS
NEW STOCKS
INSPECTION INVITED.

99

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

TO-DAY

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMI-FINAL.

Best of 5 Sets.

NG SZE KWONG

v.

M. K. LO

on

WAR CHARITIES COURT.

AT 4.30 P.M.

P. M. HODGSON,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 4th May, 1917. [605

NOTICE.

ROOMS to Let, Post Office Buildings (top floor).

Apply—
LOWE BINGHAM & MATTHEWS,
Chartered Bank Building.

Hongkong, 2nd May, 1917. [606

TO LET.

HOUSE, No. 4, Conduit Road, 4 ROOMS, basement and out-houses. Rent Moderate.

Apply to—
F. M. GUTIERREZ,
Care of SHEWAN, TOMES & [607

THE CHINA-BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE FOURTEENTH YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St George's Building, at 11 A.M. on FRIDAY, the 18th May, 1917, to receive a Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1916, and the Report of the General Manager and Consulting Committee, and to elect a Consulting Committee and Auditor.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 5th instant to the 18th May, both days inclusive.

THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., LTD.,
W. G. DARBY,
General Manager

[608

RUSSIAN 5% INTERNAL LIBERTY LOAN 1917.

Subscription to the LIBERTY LOAN is Opened at THE RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK, Hongkong, from date to the 26th June, 1917.

The price of issue is 85 per cent.

The Loan is free of Income Tax and other taxations.

The Loan is issued for 55 years and will be redeemable at par by yearly drawings beginning in December, 1922.

The Loan may be reimbursed at par after the 29th March, 1927.

Coupons are payable half-yearly on the 19th March and the 29th September.

Interest on the loan runs from the 29th March, 1917—interest from that date to be added to the price of issue.

Special favourable rates will be quoted for Russian Exchange.

Applications will be wired to Petrograd free of telegraphic charges and Bonds will be forwarded free of postal expenses.

The Bank is ready to give every facility to subscribers in the shape of advances against the Bonds.

G. TISDALL,
Manager,

[609

NOTICE.

I HAVE This Day REMOVED my OFFICE from Queen's Building to 2nd Floor of Messrs A. TACK & Co.'s Building, Des Vœux Road Central.

WEI A YUK.

Hongkong, 30th April, 1917. [599

NOTICE.

WE HAVE from This Day Opened our Offices at New York San Francisco and Hongkong under the Firm Name of KARANJIA & Co.

Our Local Office is situated at No. 2, Connaught Road.

KARANJIA & Co.

Hongkong, 30th April, 1917. [594

WANTED.

SMALL GOODS LIFT, about 4' x 4', preferably electrically driven.

Apply—
A. S. WATSON & Co., LTD.

[560

G. R.

NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.

All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.

The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding $50

58

FOR SALE.

FINE SELECTION OF
CEYLON
POSTAGE STAMPS.

GRACA & CO.,
No. 1, WYNDHAM STREET,
Hongkong.

464

PUBLIC COMPANIES

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Company's Offices, St. George's Buildings, on SATURDAY, the 5th May, 1917, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of presenting the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts to 28th February, 1917, and electing Directors and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 21st April to the 5th May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 17th April, 1917. [532

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at the Offices of the General Managers, Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., LTD., Des Vœux Road, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 9th May, at NOON, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, passing the Accounts, and electing Directors and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 2nd May to the 23rd May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., LTD.,
General Managers,

Hongkong, 25th April, 1917. [572

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Certificate No. 5/NS 1956 dated Hongkong 21st February, 1912, for Three Shares numbered 67689, 14321, and 89966 registered in the name of Mrs. MARIA DAS NEVES RIBEIRO has been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 11th day of May, 1917, a New Certificate for the shares will be issued, and the aforesaid Certificate No. 5/NS 1956 will thereafter be treated by this Corporation as Null and Void.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
N. J. STABB,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 11th April, 1917. [500

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

ONE ROOM suitable for an OFFICE.

Apply to—
DENNYS & BOWLEY.

[593

TO LET.

NO. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE. From 1st June, 1917.

Apply to—
P. M. N. DA SILVA,
6, Des Vœux Road.

[591

TO LET.

NO. 2, STEWART TERRACE, PEAK, Furnished.

Apply to—
H. E. POLLOCK,
Prince's Buildings.

97

TO LET.

1 NEW HOUSE in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation. Also 1 GODOWN in Duddell Street.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
H. M. H. NEMAZEE,
1 Des Vœux Road.

[402

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry, Two very desirable SHOPS situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply to—
THE MANAGER,
HONGKONG ICE CO., LTD.,
46, Connaught Road Central.

[401

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.

A FLAT in Humphreys Buildings, Kowloon

TO LET OR FOR SALE.

KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with wharf area 58,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.

Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings.

[391

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.

OFFICES in King's and York Buildings.
HOUSES in Clifton Gardens, Conduit Road.
HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreton Terraces.
HOUSES on Shamsen, Canton.

Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY Co., LTD.

[28

TO LET.

NO. 53, ELGIN STREET.

For Summer Months, No. 61, PEAK (Six Roomed House), Furnished.
No. 2, "FAIRVIEW," 3, Nathan Road, Kowloon.
No. 12, BEACONSFIELD ARCADE SHOP.
KELLETT CREST, 68, PEAK.
No. 26, BELILIOS TERRACE, with entrance on Conduit Road.
TWO GODOWNS in Duddell Street.
No. 2, DES VŒUX VILLAS, 51, PEAK (Unfurnished).

Apply to—LINSTEAD & DAVIS.
3rd Floor, Alexandra Buildings.

30

INTIMATION

WATSON'S

OLD BROWN

BRANDY

E

QUALITY.

25 YEARS IN WOOD.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TELEPHONE 618. [12

DEATH.

ALLAN.—At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on April 27th, MURRAY ALLAN, the son of the late William Allan, late of Shanghai, aged 17 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD; C.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 4TH MAY, 1917.

THE PROBLEM OF FOOD SUPPLY.

SOME years ago a leading English scientist warned his countrymen that at no very distant date the problem of the food supply would become a very serious one, not only for them but for all the nations of the earth. This, of course, was long before the war, and had no reference to the special conditions which war creates. It referred to normal times and normal conditions, and attracted the more attention by virtue of this very fact. The grounds on which the conclusion was based need not be here discussed. The point that deserves attention is that the results of the war in some degree bear out the warning. The present scarcity and consequent high price of food, felt not only in Europe but also in America and even in Japan and China, is no doubt partly due to disturbed conditions of transport, losses occasioned by the war, and reduced production owing to the withdrawal of men from agriculture to swell the armies; but, making due allowance for these causes, the fact is only the more emphasised that the margin between plenty and insufficiency is a very narrow one. Under normal conditions the world was producing enough food to supply all who were ready to work for it, but it was not doing much more. For the last two years or so the belligerent nations have been eking out the insufficiency and the losses by falling back on their reserves. Now the reserves are giving out and the pinch is beginning to be felt. From these considerations the conditions obtaining in the countries of the Central Powers must be excluded. Germany and Austria-Hungary have been purposely, and as an act of war, cut off from the food supplies of other countries, and the inadequacy of their own resources is demonstrated in the high prices which even ordinary necessaries have reached and in the provision of substitutes. But the Allied countries, where the chief interference with the food supplies from abroad has been Germany's submarine campaign, have felt the pinch and are beginning to feel it more. Germany claims that it is her submarine campaign which has caused the apparently serious shortage of food in Great Britain, but the amount of food supplies that Germany has been able to destroy bears a small proportion to the whole, and when we have bread riots in New York, and such a shortage of available supplies in Russia that it foments, if it does not precipitate, a revolution, the strength of Germany's claim becomes still weaker. It is argued that there is plenty of food in Russia, but that its distribution has been disturbed by bad management, while the rise in prices is due to the market operations of men who see a way to get rich on the misery of others. The same reasons are also ascribed to the high prices in New York, but, while making every allowance for this, the very fact that the rigging of the market is possible shows that there is a scarcity. The number of men drawn from the land in Russia must mean a decreased production. The closer interdependence of the nations is one of the facts brought out by the war. It is a fact which gives cause for hope, as a step in the direction of the consolidation of human, and not merely national, interests. The war has shown us more clearly how dependent the nations of Europe are on each other for different articles necessary for their own welfare, and has proved to some extent that this interdependence reaches to America, on one side, and the extreme east of Asia, on the other. It is true that Japan during the war has seen its great staple food, rice, grow cheaper, owing to good crops and her comparative independence of outside supplies; but at the same time she has experienced a rise in other directions which has more than offset any advantages gained by cheap rice, which, after all, leaves the farmers who grow it in a worse position, seeing that they receive no larger profit from their crop and at the same time have heavier expenses to meet. This is one of the difficulties encountered in increasing the supply of food-stuffs so as to widen the margin between sufficiency and insufficiency. The farmer grows according to the supply and demand. He is not conducting an eleemosynary business, and the larger part of what he produces is perishable and must find a quick market. Germany could make every preparation for war in the way of guns and ammunition; she could pile up a reserve of armaments for use on a future day; but she could not pile up a reserve of food—a disability from which she is now suffering. All the nations live more or less from hand-to-mouth in this matter. That the earth is capable of growing sufficient food to supply the existing population there is no doubt, but under present conditions the margin of safety is likely to grow less and less, owing to the superior attractions of industry and the diminishing and always precarious profits of agriculture. The State as the food-producer, with the losses of over-production falling in the shape of taxes on all alike, has been proposed as a way out of the difficulty, but the consequent increase, direct or indirect, in the cost of food, would be a serious matter. Rather we should look to the scientists to solve the problem.

Subscriptions are invited to the Russian 5 per cent. Internal Liberty Loan, which is being issued at 85 per cent.

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending 21st April amounted to 63,756 tons and the sales to 54,194 tons.

The semi-final of the open tennis championship between Ng Sze Kwong and M. K. Lo will be played on the War Charities Court this afternoon at 4.30 o'clock.

Mr. W. R. Noble, 16, Broadwood Road, has reported to the police that between April 15th and May 1st some person stole from a trunk in his bed-room, a muffler, one blanket and some clothing, of the total value of $102. He suspects his servant.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals acknowledges with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals:—Manchester Royal Infirmary, Nurses' Missionary League, £8—$42.67; A MacKenzie, $10; Wiseman, Ltd., $5.

All monies which members of the Hongkong and South China War Savings Association desire to subscribe to this Association for the investment to be made this week must be paid in by Saturday, at noon, when the investments for April and the first week in May will close.

At the Club Lusitano last evening there was a farewell "smoking concert" to three members of the Portuguese community who are proceeding to the front, Messrs. N. H. Maher, C. M. Pereira and F. Marques. The Portuguese Consul presided over the gathering, and after a few words in which he wished the trio a safe return from their great adventure, he presented each of the guests of the evening with a purse subscribed to by the members of the Portuguese community.

HONGKONG AND THE GERMANS.

Reports of the Meeting of the Legislative Council, the Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and the Public Meeting in the Theatre Royal, when the question of the exclusion of Germans from the Colony for a prescribed period after the War was discussed, have been issued in pamphlet form.

These pamphlets are now on sale at the Office of the Hongkong Daily Press, Ltd.

PRICE 20 CENTS EACH.

VIMY RIDGE.

["It is reported that General von Hindenburg recently visited the Lens district and was furious at the loss of Vimy, and reprimanded the commanders."—*Hongkong Daily Press.*]

The poor old man! You see him stand
Indignant, with a shaking hand
Raising his glasses to his eyes
To watch the British batteries
That spout their shells upon his lines.

You see the fat-jawed, brutal face,
The cunning eyes without a trace
Of feeling in their brazen stare,
The silly, bristling Prussian hair,
His staff around him shifts and shines.

On Vimy Ridge his gaze is bent:
Half fury, half astonishment
His comments run, for over there
The swarming British now prepare
For further onslaughts where his Huns

Lie thickly dead by his decree,
Yet fought and died so fruitlessly.
The old man's dull, mechanic trade
Of plots and plans precisely laid—
So many men, so many guns

To balance hostile guns and men
In strict proportion worked by pen—
Has failed him here; he stands at bay,
And, smitten with a strange dismay,
Sees, dimly, some new hidden thing,

Which all his calculations vast
Have yet ignored, for there has passed
Through all the millions pledged to fight
The Prussian boast that might is right
A thrill of hope that makes them swing

Towards the battle with a shout.
Democracy is armed and out.
And slavish Germans break and run
Before the bayonet and gun
Where might alone meets might and right.

The gross old soldier, butcher-red,
Well stares and shakes his bullet head,
For like a great advancing tide
Our banners on to victory ride
And Peace has dawned on War's dark night.

YIMKIN.

A MAY MORNING.

Come, my beloved, come with me!
See! there's a sparkle in the blue:
The leaves can never greener be,
And not a flower but yearns for you.
And Spring's a maid that must be wooed:
Then let us make high holiday
And take her while she's in the mood,
For O! it is not always May.

Nay! do not pout and hang your head,
But breathe the spirit of the time;
For, if you come not, Spring is dead
Or only lives in empty rhyme.
Then do not wait on circumstance
And opportunity delay,
But grasp the skirts of happy Chance,
For O! it is not always May.

Eftsoon shall Commerce be content
To lie, like lion and like lamb,
At peace with all the Government,
Nor care a continental d—n.
A thought ('tis worth eight hundred chips:—
Besides the Editor must pay)
Doth leap unbidden to my lips,
That O! it is not always May.

D. S. O.

REUNION OF CHRISTENDOM.

ADDRESS BY THE BISHOP OF VICTORIA.

The above subject was discussed at the meeting of the Church of England Men's Society, held under the Chairmanship of Professor Earle, on Wednesday evening.

The Bishop of Victoria opened the discussion with an interesting paper. He said that the word reunion implied that there once was union. Christ formed one Church, His prayer and vision are for one united Church. Seeds of disunion, however, were soon apparent. The Bishop traced the disruption of Christendom and mentioned some of the causes thereof. He referred to the great cleavage between the Eastern and Western Churches, and to the disruption of the Western Church in the 15th century. He pointed out some aspirations after reunion and the manifestations of a tolerant spirit in the intolerant age that followed the Reformation.

The Canons of 1604, teaching Anglicans to pray for the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, the willingness of the authorities to consecrate Scotch ministers directly to the Episcopate without first ordaining them Deacon and Priest, Archbishop Laud's dealings with the Greek Church, and the cordial fellowship of Bishop Cosin and others with French Protestants, who to this day hold service in the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral, were all referred to. The Bishop quoted long passages from the Lambeth Conference Reports of 1888, 1897 and 1908, and mentioned that at the first conference the famous quadrilateral was laid down. "That the following Articles supply a basis on which approach may be by God's blessing made towards Home Reunion:—

(a) The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as containing all things necessary to salvation and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith.

(b) The Apostles' Creed as the Baptismal symbol and the Nicence Creed as sufficient statement of the Christian faith.

(c) The two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself—Baptism and the Supper of the Lord—ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of institution, and of the elements ordained by Him.

(d) The historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the Unity of His Church.

The world conference of faith and order has been set on foot. The Church of Sweden and the Moravian Church have come into closer touch with Anglicans, and the Russian and Greek Churches show increasing friendliness. The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, Dr. McInnes, had been most cordially received by the various Patriarchs of the Eastern Churches, and at Cairo 40 prelates and clergy, both orthodox and and Catholic, Greek, Copts, Syrians, Armenians, Maronites, etc., took part in a great service in memory of Lord Kitchener.

As to our relation with the "Free Churches" of the West, the Edinburgh Conference, the Student Movement, Y.M.C.A., and the like have broken down many prejudices.

The subject should not be merely academic but practical. Every member of the Church can and ought to do something to further the cause of reunion. All must seek, above all things, the spirit of Christ, the spirit of love (controversy seems too often the death of charity), the spirit of humility—the Anglican Church has much to confess and not a little to learn—the spirit of self-sacrifice. It may be necessary to sacrifice some valued organisation and cherished theories, even the Church of England herself, for the Kingdom of God. We must abandon all party spirit. It is deplorable that almost every religious newspaper and publication bears the stamp of some party. The English Christian even seeks to keep the mean between extremes. Extreme men may get their own way in a congregation if they are sufficiently astute and aggresive, but in doing so they may quench the spirit of Christ and thus do more harm than good to themselves and their party. We must allow for the charismatic ministry, that is, the grace of God manifestly bestowed independently of channels to which we are accustomed. It is a fact that the spirit of God is not bound by any ecclesiastical traditions. The Disciples say that there was a man casting out devils who followed not them, and the Master did not allow them to forbid him. The preface to the Book of Common Prayer is careful to state: "We condemn no other nations nor prescribe anything but to our own people only," and I am glad—added the Bishop—that the Archbishop, in his pronouncement on the Kikuyu affair, has deprecated the use of the word "invalid" for any ministrations that may be irregular from our point of view. Let us always look for what is best in those who differ from us, and cordially recognise the work of God wherever we see it, let us also co-operate wherever possible. We sing the hymns and use the theological books of men of different denominations. Social and moral enterprises afford ample scope for co-operation, so also do such organisations as the Bible Society, and why should we not join much more than we do in united prayer? Bishop Norris and I attended the prayer meeting at the Union Church at the beginning of the National Mission, and when the other Sunday I was at Haiphong, where there is no Church of our own, I attended the French Protestant Church in the morning and the Roman Catholic in the evening.

Amongst all Churches there are many earnest souls praying daily for the fulfilment of the Master's prayer that we all may be one, and a Divine impulse is stirring us all. May He grant us as Jeremy Taylor prays: "Uniting principles, reconciled hearts and an external Communion in His own good season."

THE WAR.

GERMANY'S WASTAGE ON WESTERN FRONT.

MAY DAY IN EUROPE.

WARNING TO GERMANY.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

AMERICAN WAR MEASURES.

FOOD PROBLEM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

CRISIS IN GERMANY REPORTED.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

AERIAL WARFARE.

LONDON, May 2nd.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We drove off a raid northward of Arleux-en-Gohelle.

Reciprocal artillery firing was active northward of the Scarpe and in the neighbourhood of Ypres.

Ten German aeroplanes were brought down on Tuesday. Six were driven down and a seventh was shot down. Four of ours are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

LONDON, May 2nd.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—During the night there was artillery activity between St. Quentin and Lens.

We repulsed a German raid at Fauquisart.

FRENCH FRONT.

GERMAN LINES PIERCED.

PARIS, May 2nd.

A *communiqué* states:—There is great reciprocal artillery activity in the region of Chemin des Dames.

On the Cerny, Hurtebise and Craonne front, our machine-guns and grenades repulsed enemy partial attacks on our trenches and small posts.

There was a heavy artillery struggle during the night in the sectors of Mont Cornillet and Mont Haut, in Champagne, and lively grenade fighting in the woods west of Mont Cornillet in which we progressed.

Our detachments penetrated the German lines at different points at Les Eparges and wrecked enemy works. They brought back material.

Our air squadrons on the night of April 30th heavily bombed several railway stations and military establishments in the regions of Laon, Vouzier and Rethel, causing fires.

BATTLES IN FRANCE.

EVIDENCE OF ENEMY WASTAGE.

LONDON, May 2nd.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters says:—The principal gain of the Anglo-French offensive so far is the forcing of General von Hindenburg to engage reserves which he had assembled for quite another purpose and wasting them irreparably. The Germans, apparently, had a strategic reserve of forty-four divisions in the West and thirty-three of these were sent to the front line. It is estimated that over half of them were withdrawn for reconstitution, owing to losses.

The Germans are momentarily pouring out troops in the hope of a separate Russian peace. There is evidence which demonstrates that German battalions numbering 1,000 men in 1914 are now reduced to 750 theoretically, though practically they often do not exceed 500 combatants. There is reason to believe that the enemy has altogether 219 Divisions, of which 143 are in the West. The Anglo-French in April made prisoner of six Divisions in bayonet strength.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, May 2nd.

A wireless German official report states:—English advances westward of Lens near Monchy and Fontaine failed.

We repulsed the French at Cerny on the Aisne. Artillery has been intense on the whole front.

We repulsed French thrusts at Chemin-des-Dames ridge.

During the Champagne fighting on the 30th April, we captured over 400.

The enemy yesterday lost fourteen aeroplanes.

BALKANS FIGHTING.

We repulsed with heavy losses Russian attacks northward of Oitoz Valley.

Fighting continues at the Cerna Bend on the west bank of the Vardar.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH STEAMER TORPEDOED.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The Admiralty announce that the British steamship *Gena* was sunk on Tuesday by a torpedo discharged from a German seaplane off Middelburgh.

All on board were saved.

The *Gena's* gunfire brought down another seaplane associated in the attack. The occupants were made prisoner.

BRITISH SHIPPING.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The Admiralty reports that the arrivals during the week number 2,716, and the sailings 2,690. Thirty-eight vessels of over 1,600 tons and 13 under were sunk. Twenty-four vessels were unsuccessfully attacked. Eight fishing boats were sunk.

ITALIAN SHIPPING.

LONDON, May 2nd.

An Italian Naval *communiqué* states that the number of vessels arriving during the week ending the 29th April was 627, and the departures 521. Three Italian steamers and seven sailing-ships were sunk. One steamer was unsuccessfully attacked.

The Near East.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

MESOPOTAMIA CAMPAIGN.

LONDON, May 2nd.

An official report states that General Maude attacked the Thirteenth Turkish Army Corps, which was strongly entrenched on both banks of the Tigris at Shatt-el-Adhaim. He took the enemy by surprise. The first two lines, including a fortified village were rapidly and irresistibly stormed. A strong counter-attack lost us the village, but it was speedily regained. The enemy was driven back to the Jebel Hamrin Hills.

We captured 359 prisoners, including a regimental commander.

BRITISH AT GAZA.

LONDON, May 2nd.

An official report from Egypt states:—Our artillery in the neighbourhood of Gaza dispersed working parties and put out of action two guns and blew up an ammunition dump.

EARLIER CABLES.

TURKS CAPTURE MUSH.

LONDON, May 2nd.

A Turkish *communiqué* states that the Turkish Army have occupied Mush. The Russians retired northward.

TURCO-RUSSIAN BATTLES.

LONDON, May 2nd.

A Russian official wireless message says:—We repelled Turkish attacks to the south-west of Gumishkane, and also to the north-west of Ognot.

A Russian submarine in the Bosphorus sank a thousand-ton sailing boat and a steam tug, and silenced a shore battery which opened fire.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has issued a statement respecting the work of the Imperial War Conference, now approaching the end of its labours, together with some of its resolutions.

He states that some matters are of the most confidential character, and at present the publication of the resolutions and the debates connected with them would probably not be possible till after the war.

The statement records the Conference's decision was unanimous with respect to the resolutions now publishable. On no occasion was it necessary to divide upon or withdraw a motion because agreement was not capable of being reached.

The statement comments upon a few of the resolutions. It notes a resolution of thanks to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. As Chairman, Sir F. W. Borden touchingly paid a tribute to the late Brigadier Long, who had fallen in the country's service. Sir F. W. Borden and other speakers expressed their gratification at the presence of the son of the statesman who had done so much to promote the idea of Imperial unity—the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

The resolutions recommend the appointment at the earliest possible moment of an expert committee representing the United Kingdom, the Dominions, and the Indian military authorities to consider the various patterns of military stores and equipment and using them with a view to selecting standard patterns for general adoption as far as the special circumstances in each country will permit. That the Ordnance *personnel* of the Empire military organisations be trained on the same methods and principles. Ordnance exports from all parts of the Empire should be attached for adequate periods to the Imperial Ordnance Department. That the Admiralty be requested to work out immediately after the war the most effective scheme of Empire naval defence for the consideration of the Governments summoned to the conference, with the Admiralty's recommendations regarding the Empire's future security.

FOOD RESTRICTIONS.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The Press Bureau announce that Lord Devonport restricts the use of maize, barley, and oats to seed or as human and animal food, and tapioca, sago, manioc and arrowroot for human food.

EARLIER CABLES.

POSSIBLE COMPULSORY RATIONING.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bathurst announced that the War Cabinet is considering compulsory rationing. If approved, the local authorities will be empowered to establish the necessary machinery.

INTERESTING BETROTHAL.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The engagement has been announced with His Majesty the King's entire approval, of Prince Alexander Battenberg and Lady Irene, daughter of the Earl of Londesborough.

THE BUDGET.

NO NEW TAXES.

LONDON, May 2nd.

A preliminary statement explanatory of the Budget shows that the receipts for the past financial year amounted to £573,428,000, exceeding the Estimate by £71,153,000.

The principal increases over the Estimates were:—

Income Tax	£10,000,000
Excess Profits Duty	53,920,000
Estate Duties	1,232,000
Stamps	878,000
Telegraphs	100,000
Crown Lands	100,000
Miscellaneous	13,000,000

The decreases comprise:—

Postal	£1,650,000
Telephones	450,000
Customs	439,000
Excise	8,620,000

The expenditure amounted to £2,198,113,000.

CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH.

In introducing the Budget, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the estimate of advances to the Allies and Dominions had been exceeded by £100,000,000, but he was glad to say that the Dominions had both the will and the power to supply so much from their own resources that there was no increasing strain upon the British Exchequer. The Loans to the Allies last year totalled £540,000,000 and to the Dominions £54,000,000. Since the beginning of the war the advances had been £828,000,000 and £142,000,000 respectively.

The National Debt was now £3,354,000,000, less the loans he had just mentioned. A large amount of expenditure was now being met from revenue. No belligerent could show such satisfactory figures. The last War Loan, including Treasury Bills, amounted to £966,048,000, the conversions of 4½ per cent. Stock to £722,005,000, and the conversions of 4 per cent. Stock to £22,358,000. The Government proposed no new taxes, but only additions to three existing taxes.

The Entertainment Tax yielded last year three millions, and the additional duty would yield a further million-and-a-half. It was proposed to increase the Tobacco Tax again by a shilling and tenpence per pound, which produces six millions, and to make the Excess Profits Duty eighty instead of sixty per cent. The new duty is retrospective from January 1st, but concessions will be made respecting interest on new capital introduced since the war. The additional yield of this tax is estimated at £20,000,000.

It is intended to deal with shipping profits not by tax, but by requisitioning vessels at fixed rates.

The estimated expenditure for the current year is £2,290,381,000.

The entry of America had altered the financial situation. America would help us to the extent of her abilities with the financial burdens of the Allies.

Mr. Bonar Law hoped that £400,000,000 to the Allies would be put down to the current year, and consequently would not be required.

The revenue for the year was estimated at £638,600,000, leaving £1,651,781,000 to be covered by a loan.

Mr. Bonar Law, in concluding, declared that want of money would not prevent us from winning the war, for we could hold out longer than the enemy. (Loud cheers.)

EARLY AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO FRANCE.

WASHINGTON, May 2nd.

The Government is prepared to send a small expedition to France as soon as the Allies consider that the ships can be spared from the transportation of foodstuffs.

LOANS TO FRANCE AND ITALY.

Mr. McAdoo announces that the first loans to France and Italy will be for Twenty Millions Sterling each.

CENSORSHIP IN AMERICA.

President Wilson has authorised a censorship of all cables from the United States, besides on the telegraph and telephones lines to Mexico, with the object of preventing the transmission of information to the enemy.

GRAND VIZIER FETED.

AMSTERDAM, May 2nd.

A telegram from Berlin states that the Turkish Grand Vizier, Talaat Pasha, has been everywhere fêted in Germany and Austria.

The Grand Vizier visited the Kaiser and was the guest of Hindenburg at Headquarters, and he was banquetted by the Austrian Emperor.

POTATOES IN CANADA.

OTTAWA, May 2nd.

It is officially stated that there is a surplus of a million bushels of potatoes beyond domestic requirements.

GEN. SMUTS TO VISIT ITALY.

LONDON, May 2nd.

Reuter's Agency understands that the Italian Government has invited General Smuts to visit the Italian Front.

GENERAL TO RECEIVE FREEDOM OF MANCHESTER.

LONDON, May 2nd.

Arrangements are being made whereby General Smuts will receive the freedom of the city of Manchester in London.

RUMOURS OF A CRISIS IN GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, May 2nd.

The German papers chronicle rumours of a crisis in high Government quarters.

BRITISH MISSION TO AMERICA.

INITIAL DISCUSSIONS.

WASHINGTON, May 2nd.

The first formal conferences of the British Mission with American officials discussed the food and shipping problem.

Lord Percy declared that the present rate of British construction and the present estimated rate of American construction of ships were insufficient to meet the demands necessitated by submarism; hence the shipping issue was of dominant importance. He urged that the construction of America and the Allies should be appreciably increased. "The war has resolved itself into a race between the efficiency of British and American shipyards and the German submarines."

It is understood that the closest co-operation of the present Anglo-American tonnage and the pooling of the future building powers of the United States and the Allies was decided upon.

LONDON, May 2nd.

In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil stated that blockade experts accompanied the Mission to the United States. Arrangements for the co-operation of the latter with the Allies for the most effective prosecution of the war were proceeding satisfactorily.

FRENCH MISSION TO AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, May 2nd.

M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre appeared in the Senate, which had adjourned the debate on the Army Bill to receive them.

M. Viviani gave a stirring address, and Marshal Joffre, in response to repeated calls, mounted the rostrum and said:—"Vive Amerique!"

The Senate adopted the Army Bill with its conscription provisions, and it now goes to a conference of the House of Representatives.

ITALIAN MISSION TO AMERICA.

ROME, May 2nd.

An Italian Mission is going to the United States, headed by Prince Udine, son of the Duke of Genoa, and including Marquis Borsarelli, the Foreign Under-Secretary, Signor Marconi, and two ex-Ministers.

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY.

PREMIER OVERHAULING THE NAVAL ADMINISTRATION.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The *Times* states that if Sir Edward Carson leaves the Admiralty, which is likely enough, it will be in consequence of the attacks in connection with controversies not concerning the sailors.

There has been no difference of opinion between Sir Edward Carson and his Admiralty colleagues.

The *Times* adds that the Government is likely to end the present system of publishing the losses, owing to the dissatisfaction felt among the members of the House of Commons.

The *Daily Mail* states that Mr. Lloyd George is overhauling the Naval administration.

THE SUBMARINE MENACE.

STATEMENT BY FIRST LORD.

LONDON, May 2nd.

In the House of Commons, replying to a question, Sir Edward Carson admitted there was ground for suspicion that submarines got out from enemy ports *via* neutral waters. The matter was being considered.

Sir Edward Carson promised to consider the suggestion to give accurate information at the Secret Session or otherwise regarding the total numbers and tonnage of British, Allied and neutral sinkings, and the estimated enemy submarine losses. He admitted that some ships adhering to Admiralty instructions regarding tracks to be followed had been lost, but the losses would have been greater if the ships had not adhered to the instructions. He assured the House that all available naval resources were being employed on such tracks.

SITUATION IN GREECE.

DISCUSSION CONTRARY TO ALLIES' INTERESTS.

LONDON, May 2nd.

Mr. Bonar Law, in the House of Commons, stated that there had been conflicting reports regarding the situation in Greece, but any public discussion would be contrary to the national interests.

HIS MAJESTY URGES ECONOMY.

LONDON, May 2nd.

His Majesty the King has issued a proclamation urging the greatest economy in all kinds of grain, that householders should reduce their consumption of bread by at least a quarter of the quantity ordinarily consumed, and not to use flour except for bread. The proclamation also enjoins the utmost economy in the use of corn for horses.

The proclamation is to be read from pulpits on four successive Sundays.

THE KING'S EXAMPLE.

His Majesty is not asking the people to do what he is not doing himself. The Royal Household has been strictly rationed since February.

MAY DAY IN EUROPE.

PEACE RESOLUTION IN VIENNA.

AMSTERDAM, May 2nd.

There were twenty-two Socialist May Day meetings in Vienna. A resolution was passed in favour of peace. The proceedings were most orderly.

SWEDISH DEMONSTRATIONS.

STOCKHOLM, May 2nd.

Seventy thousand people participated in the May Day demonstration. One flag was inscribed "Bread, Peace and Liberty." A resolution was passed to the effect that with the resuscitation of international relations, a durable peace will be assured." The resolution concluded:—"Long live the eight hours day. Long live the revision of the Constitution. Long live Socialist peace!" Similar demonstrations were held throughout Sweden. Perfect order was maintained everywhere.

PROTESTS IN NORWAY.

CHRISTIANIA, May 2nd.

Reuter's Correspondent at Christiania states that there were May Day celebrations everywhere, at which there were protests at the dearness of living. There were no disorders.

CELEBRATIONS BANNED IN GERMANY.

AMSTERDAM, May 2nd.

In Berlin an appeal was made to the Socialists' Executive and the Trade Unions that May Day be not observed. This was generally obeyed and work was nowhere ceased. There were no meetings or processions.

WARNING TO GERMANY.

The *Vorwaerts*, in a May Day article, reminds the governing classes in Germany that with the overthrow of Tsarism, the possibility of a continuance of absolutism in any European country collapsed. "Whether the remnants of European feudal sovereignty would hold on for a few months or a few years, anyhow its hours are numbered. If it does not yield now the more sudden will be its downfall."

The fact that such sentiments are permitted expression lends colour to the rumours previously cabled of a delicate situation in high political quarters in Germany.

TRANQUILLY OBSERVED IN ITALY.

ROME, May 2nd.

May Day was observed most tranquilly in Italy.

ENTHUSIASM IN PETROGRAD.

PETROGRAD, May 2nd.

The Government proclaimed May Day a national holiday. Glorious weather prevailed, and there were extraordinary scenes of gaiety and enthusiasm. There were numberless processions, workmen, soldiers, sailors, officials and students fraternising. They marched, accompanied by bands playing, and women and children singing the "Marseillaise," etc., to the centre of the City, where meetings were held. Over a million people participated.

QUIET OBSERVANCE IN PARIS.

PARIS, May 2nd.

May Day passed off quietly. A Syndicalist meeting was followed by a procession on the Boulevards, but this dispersed most orderly.

"REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS" IN RUSSIA.

PETROGRAD, May 1st.

The Executive Council of the Workmen's and Soldier's Delegates has issued, in the form of placards, a proclamation as follows:—"Several regrettable incidents occurred yesterday. An unknown youth killed General Kashtalinski, and shots were fired at political demonstrators in the Vassiliestroy quarter. A number of individuals claiming to be members of the Executive Council arrested a landowner, and others, also tore off the epaulettes of officers. Only madmen or enemies to national freedom could have committed such revolting acts. The Executive appeals to the citizens to prevent a recurrence of these acts."

THE TURF.

RESULT OF TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The Two Thousand Guineas, run at Newmarket, resulted as follows:—

Gay Crusader	1
Magpie	2
Athdara	3

Fourteen ran. The race was won by a head, with three lengths between second and third.

The betting was:—9 to 4 Gay Crusader; 6 to 1 Magpie; 25 to 1 Athdara.

PEACE RUMOUR.

CHICAGO WHEAT MARKET DEMORALISED.

CHICAGO, May 2nd.

Wheat has tumbled fifteen points in the last hour, following an announcement that the Swiss Minister, while conferring with President Wilson, reported that immense strikes were in progress in Germany and also that Herr von Bethmann Hollweg would make a peace offer on Thursday. The market closed in a demoralised condition.

FOOD CONDITIONS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Minister has conferred with President Wilson on food conditions in Switzerland.

President Wilson reiterated his assurances that the United States does not intend cutting off the supplies of neutrals unless absolutely necessary.

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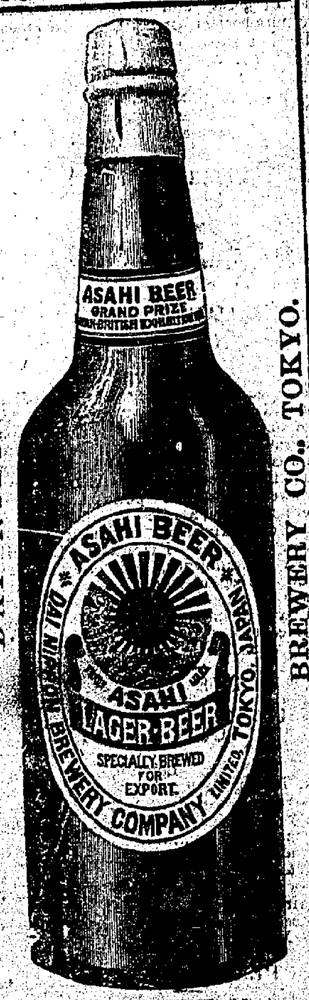

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IT IS NEW DISCOVERY (CAMPHORATED FORM OF QUININE) EASY TO TAKE SAFE AND LASTING CURE.
THERAPION
THE GREAT TRADE MARKED WORD "THERAPION" IS ON EVERY STAMP AFFIXED TO ALL GENUINE PACKETS OF THE MAKERS "THERAPION."

THE BOXER INDEMNITY.

HOW IT WAS APPOINTED.

Mr. Rozenraad, writing to the *Financial Times*, states:—At a moment when there is so much question of an offer made by the Allies to the Chinese Government to forgo the payment of the Boxer indemnity, it may be desirable, to give some particulars concerning this indemnity, which was fixed by the Powers at 450,000,000 Haikwan taels, to be paid in gold in thirty-nine years, with four per cent. interest, to be distributed as follows:—

Country.	Percentage.	Amount in Hk. Taels.	Amount in Foreign Securities. Currency.	Amount.
Russia	29.9 139	139,371,120	Roubles	180,084,021
Germany	20.0 667	93,670,515	Marks	278,160,423
France	16.7 512	78,378,240	Francs	205,793,400
Great Brit in	11.2 843	56,20,547	£	7,593,-80
Japan	7.73180	54.7 3,100	Yen	15,010,991
U. S. of America	7.5319 9	32,933,055	Dollars	10,440,778
Italy	5.01 89	26,017,905	Lire	99,893,703
Belgium	1.38641	8,494,340	Francs	21,816,293
Austria-Hungary	0.68076	4,305,923	Crowns	10,334 092
Holland	0.17380	785,140	Florins	1,404,651
Spain	0.03 17	135,316	Pestas	307,421
Portugal	0.02050	92,250	£	13,-37
Sweden & Norway	0.01320	59,820	£	9,421
Various	0 03320	149,670	£	22,460
Total	100 pc	452,000,000	—	—

When the amount of this indemnity was fixed by the Powers it was pointed out that, before imposing upon China the burden of such a debt, which even in silver would weigh heavily upon a country which had suffered so severely, first through the war with Japan and afterwards by the Boxer rising, China's economical and financial position shoul be taken into account. It seemed in the interests of the Powers themselves that indemnity to be paid should not exceed what could reasonably be claimed without paralysing the economical development of the Celestial Empire.

The Powers, however, not only insisted on the payment of the indemnity in gold, but so convinced was everyone in Europe that China, which had always paid regularly the interest on her debt, largely held abroad, would pay also regularly and in gold the said 450 millions, that France as well as Russia issued a loan against the amount they had to receive as their share of the indemnity. France issued in December, 1901, 265 million francs in a three per cent. loan, while Russia issued in April, 1902, 181,956,000 roubles in a four per cent. loan payable in 39 years.

And the regularity with which China has fulfilled all her obligations clearly shows the economic strength of a country which has suffered immensely by the sharp fall in silver, which fell on December 3, 1902, to 21.87 pence, but whose large resources and efficient management enabled her to surmount her former difficulties and to enjoy since many years an excellent credit.

THE CHINESE MILITARY CONFERENCE.

The first sitting of the conference opened on April 25th was attended in all by 29 persons. Only those representing the provinces and special territories have power to vote, so that 24 persons at the first sitting could vote, each province or territory being entitled to one vote. The Premier, the Ministers and other officials in Peking, being unanimous in their opinion, will refrain from voting.

Premier Tuan opened the Conference with a concise speech, explaining that it was for two purposes that this conference was held, namely, to discuss and decide the reorganizaton of the army and also the foreign policy of the country.

As regards the foreign policy of the Government, an understanding had been reached with the Tuchuns several days before the conference opened, so they will unanimously refrain from opposing, but obey and carry out, whatever policy the Central Government decides to adopt. Thus, the path towards the final step has been cleared of all obstacles, thanks to the adroit but very efficacious manner in which the Premier consulted the opinion of the country's military leaders, whose vanity was gratified. The military questions lightly touched upon were: (1) The reorganization of China's army so as to attain uniformity and cohesion throughout the country. (2) To reform the system of promotion of officers. (3) The disbandment of troops, and reduction of expenditure.

It was decided that the next sitting should take place on April 27th.

Later, it was reported that the questions before the Conference would be decided by the Chairman, that is the Premier, with the concurrence of those present, if possible without voting, so as to show a united front.

TAIPING RUBBER ESTATES.

At the annual meeting of the Taiping Rubber Estates, Ltd., at Shanghai on the 27th ult, Mr. Brodie A. Clark, who presided, mentioned that the sum of Tls. 6,637.64 appeared on the debit side of profit and loss account for exchange adjustment. The output of rubber during the past year was a little over the estimated production of 150,000 lbs. The all-in cost was 1s. 3d. per lb.

The balance sheet showed that the balance to credit of profit and loss account for the past year amounted to Tls. 63,224.11, and, after paying an interim dividend of 10 per cent., Tls. 20,000, there remained a balance for disposal of Tls. 43,224.11, which the directors recommended should be dealt with as follows.—

	Tls.
To pay a final dividend of 15 per cent.	30,000.00
To write off development a/c	3,610.00
To write off buildings	6,082.92
To write off machinery	36.45
To bonus to staff at estate	680.00
To carry forward to 1917 account	2,634.74
	Tls. 43,224.11

The report and accounts were passed as presented and the sum of Tls. 1,000 was voted to War Funds.

CZAR'S VAST PROPERTIES.

ROMANOFF FAMILY HOLD A TENTH OF ALL THE LAND IN THE WORLD.

"The autocracy of Russia," said Jackoff Prelooker, the author of many revolutionary books and the last editor of the *Anglo-Russian*, a monthly periodical published in London just before the war, "is like the head of a family grown too large for personal direction and control. Successive autocrats or Czars, have attempted to preserve personal control through members of their family and those in sympathy with them until an immense bureaucracy has been evolved which is entirely apart from the people except as it controls their life and property in the name of the Czar. The autocrat, because of this bureaucracy, would grant no rights to the people which would transfer its power to them any more than the father of a family would surrender any of his domestic rights to his children without abdicating as their head."

In the many ways in which the Czar and his family and their servants of the bureaucracy have managed to maintain the autocracy, the land question and the imperial revenues are said to offer a striking example for immediate adjustment by the revolution.

Since the Treaty of Portsmouth the Russian Empire has occupied 8,647,657 square miles or one-seventh of the land surface of the globe. It has a population of about 200,000,000, or fewer than twenty-five to the square mile. Nominally the autocrat "owns" both land and people, but he and his family out of the immense total of 948,063,763 acres actually own and receive the revenue from 680,938,927 acres, about 70 per cent. of the whole land area of Russia; one-tenth that of the world. The balance, or 267,124,836 acres, is distributed as follows, according to the 1910 report of the Department of Agriculture, the latest:

	Acres.
Nobility	181,606,519
Merchants	35,321,303
Peasants	35,141,886
Landed proprietors	8,381,889
Other classes	5,673,289
Total	267,124,836

The nobility number about 1,400,000, the agricultural classes (peasants and landed proprietors) 110,000,000. Thus the tiller of the soil and taxpayer possess on the average about one-third of an acre; the Russian nobleman, who does not pay taxes, possesses on an average some 128.

384 LOAVES OF BREAD.

To put the case in another form: From every 384 loaves of bread produced by the Russian agriculturist the noble land owner alone takes away some 369 loaves for himself, leaving one loaf for the producer, from which the latter has yet to devote a part to satisfy the State or autocratic tax collector.

In many instances, aside from the tax, there is an autocratic perquisite in kind; as, for example, in the trapping of sables. These from time immemorial have been the property of the Romanoff family, and may be worn in Russia by no one else under severe penalty. Other penalties are attached to attempts to export the black pelts.

Concerning the autocratic power of the Czar and how it may be used independently of any legislative functions of the Council of the Empire, or Duma, M. Prelooker has cited the following instances:

"An action was brought against Princess Imeretinsky by her late husband's heirs. The Princess privately petitioned his Majesty to intervene on her behalf, and he ordered the plaintiffs to be non-suited, against the decision of the law. Similarly, in a case when the Tula Bank was charged with the sale of the estates of a bankrupt to satisfy the claims of creditors, the Czar interfered, issued a personal order stopping the sale and suspending the operation of the law.

"Again, in another case, some nobleman sold his estate to a syndicate of merchants; the transaction was properly carried out, and legally ratified. But Czar Nicholas II., by his autocratic power, cancelled the deed of sale, and ordered the property returned to the original owner, whose only desire had been to obtain the use of the purchase price for a few months."

CZAR'S ENORMOUS INCOME.

Nobody knows exactly the amount of the Czar's enormous income. The expenditure of some of it is traceable to certain public works whose budgets are matters of public record, and a large part is known to be absorbed by his family and their dependents, who number about 3,000, and are entirely apart from the noble class, which has no Romanoff affiliations. According to Mr. Prelooker the Czar takes "an annual salary of $12,500,000.

"I use the expression 'takes' deliberately, for there is no one, no law or institution in Russia that could veto the assignment by the Czar to himself of any sum he is pleased to name. Besides this enormous revenue, he derives yet another annual income from his private estates and mines, the latter being worked by common and political convicts."

According to the "Almanach Hachette," the Czar enjoys an annual income of $42,500,000, or $85 every minute.

There is still another source of income which, with the consent of the Czar, is more or less devoted to the support of his immediate family. This is from the Romanoff property of 680,938,227 acres 32,000,000 acres of which are at present productive. This yields an annual revenue of $10,000,000. This sum goes for the support of the Grand Dukes and Duchesses, who number forty-six, many of whom draw yet other incomes from private sources, or from various posts occupied in the army and navy, or in the general administration of the bureaucracy—posts which, of course, outside of the actual working departments which extend from the ministries down to the most insignificant official, are mostly sinecures.

The Russian autocracy, has been, therefore, not only a political form of Government, but a tremendously paying business for the autocrat himself and all his relations, near and remote.

The disposition of the properties of the Romanoffs will naturally be one of the

(*Continued at foot of next column.*)

THE FIGHTING MAN'S FUTURE.

AUSTRALIAN SCHEME.

MR. FISHER ON THE NEW CITIZENSHIP.

Speaking at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute at Caxton Hall, recently, Mr. Andrew Fisher, High Commissioner for Australia, discussed the scheme for the settlement of soldiers in Australia after the war, and gave some interesting particulars of the great Australian Transcontinental Railway, now on the point of completion.

He said:—Australia is an exporter of food, an importer of men. Britain for a century has been an importer of food, an exporter of the most adventurous of her sons. Australia wants population. She wants an independent population, and she wants it upon the soil. She has to provide and is providing an organized means of resettling these hundreds of thousands of the flower of her manhood who have flocked across the world to "do their bit" for their country.

Under the present constitution of Australia the lands of the continent are solely the property of the various States. In any scheme of land settlement it was therefore necessary to embody the Governments of the States. The Governments of the Commonwealth and the States conferred together last month and agreed upon a scheme of settlement on Australian lands, not only for Australian soldiers and sailors, but also for British soldiers and sailors who have fought in the war.

The keynote of the scheme is that the Briton and the Australian will share and share alike. They have shared the toil of war together. In the trenches they have made a friendship that cannot be divided by the seas. We hope that friendship of the trenches will merge into a mutual citizenship of the Commonwealth in the new land of the South. A Government Board, to be known as the Soldiers' Settlement Board, has been appointed, consisting of a Minister from each State and a Minister representing the Commonwealth. This Board will recommend:—

(1.)—Financial aid to be advanced to the soldier settlers (irrespective of the provision of land).

(2.)—The purposes for which the advances may be made.

(3.)—The rate of interest to be paid on the advances.

(4.)—The conditions under which the interest is to be paid.

The money for these advances will be provided by the Commonwealth Government and will be advanced through existing State institutions such as agricultural banks, credit financiers, etc., to the soldier settlers against the value of their improvement of the land. The advances will be at most reasonable rates. The Commonwealth provide the money to enable the new settler to make a start upon the land. Some £2,000,000 is to be furnished this year. The States will provide the land.

LAND ON GENEROUS TERMS.

In each State of Australia the respective Governments have already acquired large areas of land for the settlement of discharged soldiers. The terms under which the soldiers can take up land are most generous. The conditions vary in each State, but generally the terms are more than liberal. To give two instances. In Queensland, there is now before the State Parliament a Bill which will empower the Government to acquire for the Crown any land which may be needed for discharged soldiers. The Government propose to make this land available under perpetual lease. It will not be necessary for a discharged soldier to deposit any sum of money when applying for a perpetual lease, nor will any rent be demanded for the first three years. The Western Australian Government propose to give returned soldiers areas up to 160 acres. The Government will clear some of the land for them and give them the help of the Agricultural Bank.

Australia to-day offers a great return for energy. In the old days starting on the land was difficult, precarious, slow, and expensive. Now the small man—in the matter of money—can start with a good prospect of settling himself comfortably after a few years' work, experience, and saving of his wages, by taking advantage of what the different Governments offer by their systems of closer land settlement, and by the conversion of large pastoral holdings into agricultural areas, where wheat is grown or the land utilized for mixed farming, or dairying.

The great development work in front of Australia is the construction of railways. This is not to say that much has not been done. Already 21,000 miles of line are open for traffic, practically all the property of the States. With the advent of federation, something bigger has come over the horizon. As an outward sign of federation, it has fallen to the Commonwealth Parliament to provide for the construction of great trunk railways, spanning the continent from east to west and from north to south. The former of these—the Transcontinental from east to west, from Port Augusta in South Australia to Kalgoorlie in Western Australia, is on the point of completion.

It has been a monumental undertaking. It is a first-class line of 4ft. 8½in. gauge, capable of luxurious travelling at high speed. It has been built entirely by the Commonwealth Government by day labour, without the aid of contractors. Australian engineers have built the line. Australian steel works have supplied a goodly portion of the rails. To build the line alone was a great undertaking, for in all its 1,000 miles of length there was practically no civilization. It was built in two sections—i.e., from either end. And as I speak the railhead construction camps are getting hourly into touch. It will be a dramatic meeting there in the silent heart of the continent.

I hail the completion of the line as a great Australian success. It will bring Western Australia within 48 hours of the Eastern States. It will open up thousands of miles of new country which, given water, will support a considerable population. And it will furnish an invaluable aid, on interior lines, to the military defence of the Commonwealth.

first problems for a new Government to solve, for the members of that family, while abdicating all political rule, may still, as individuals, claim that vast wealth as their own.

RUNNING THE GERMAN BLOCKADE.

THE FIRST SHIP TO NEW YORK.

The *Philadelphia*, the first ship of the American Line to cross the Atlantic since the new submarine campaign began, has reached New York. We publish below an account of the voyage sent to the *Times* by an American correspondent who travelled in the ship.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22nd.

Without the "candy stick" stripes on her sides, sailing from Liverpool in spite of the German decision that no ship could sail from any other port than Falmouth, and in bold defiance, nay, more, in utter disregard of the German alleged "blockade" orders the good ship *Philadelphia* has just crossed the Atlantic, reaching New York to-day.

The *Philadelphia* is the first ship of the American Line to run the gauntlet of the German submarines since the new measures were put in force, and, although she went through the so-called danger zone practically without altering her regular course not a sign was seen, not a signal was heard, from those who presumed to tell her she could not sail. It is true that the abundance of British ships may have made approach by submarines difficult, if not extremely perilous; but, whatever the reasons it is a fact that not the slightest attempt was made to interfere with her on her voyage, and sorry indeed must be those Americans who decided to heed the German threats and postpone their voyage.

More than 200 first-class passengers were booked to sail on January 14th but only 61, including 11 women and three children, put in an appearance at Euston Station. Of this number, however, every one was determined to make the trip, and thoroughly confident that nothing would happen, barring perhaps one passenger, who was actually making the trip in search of adventure. All the others were in a position to postpone the voyage, but found no reason to do so, confident that the journey would be as at any other time.

PASSENGERS' STURDY SPIRIT.

The spirit animating this group must be admirred when it is borne in mind that the date fixed by the Germans for the beginning of the new campaign was the day before the ship sailed, and that more than a hundred passengers, who are probably still in London, suddenly discovered important business reasons for remaining in England.

One of the passengers who sailed had taken the precaution of getting married in London before undertaking the journey, emulating the officers who get married before leaving for the front. The actual passenger list included a blind youth, who, although well warned of the possible dangers, was so confident of America's determination not to allow Britain's supremacy on the seas and herself to be dictated to by anyone, that he had made up his mind that nothing could stop him from sailing, under the American flag.

Not even the presence of reporters aboard the boat-train from Euston to Liverpool collecting information regarding the identity of passengers, with the obvious view of preparing obituary notices in case of possible troubles, could alter the determination of those passengers who had paid no attention whatsoever to the document, which the American Line officials had asked them to sign before leaving London, containing the words:—

"I fully realize the position and the risk I am running, and am prepared to free the company from all responsibility arising in any way from war perils."

An imposing array of military police and civilian authorities was mustered at Liverpool to examine closely the prospective passengers and their luggage, but found nothing with which to interfere, beyond a warrant served on a man who was abandoning his wife in England and preparing to elope with another woman. As the ship left the dock at 5.30 p.m. gloomy looks were to be seen only on the faces of those left in Liverpool. The complete passenger-list included 61 first-class, 86 second-class, and 114 third-class, the last named including the shipwrecked crew of the *Housatonic*, with one man who had been three times in ships torpedoed by the Germans.

After anchoring in the river awaiting the tide, the *Philadelphia* sailed. All the passengers retired, not one remaining on deck. So thoroughly confident were all that on the following night, when the ship went through the actual war zone outlined by the Germans, every one retired in the same manner. Not one sign of fear, or even worry, could be found. On the second day of the trip, when real excitement should have been witnessed, the passengers sat on deck, calmly smiling as ship upon ship went by. Here, indeed was actual proof of the efficiency not of the alleged German "blockade," but of British naval watchfulness. Ships not by twos or threes, but by scores, were passed all day long.

THE "MARY ANN."

It was in the afternoon, when the passengers were enjoying their last glimpse of land and preparing to pass through the much-advertised danger zone, that a small steam trawler came alongside. It was just one of the "mosquito" fleet described by Alfred Noyes which is protecting shipping all around Great Britain. Her name was that of a girl. The censor would probably suppress it here, but for the purposes of the message I may call her the *Mary Ann*. The passengers had seen vessels of every description all day long, merchantmen of all sizes, with an occasional destroyer in the distance, but this was the brave little *Mary Ann*. As she steamed alongside the passengers could distinguish the faces of her small crew, and a mighty cheer went up as the great ocean liner left her to proceed into the unknown and uncertain high seas.

The unknown, however, proved a tedious and entirely uneventful journey,

(*Continued at foot of next column.*)

only noteworthy for the complete absence of ocean traffic. Few are those who have crossed the Atlantic without passing ships of some description, but on this voyage no craft of any kind was seen.

There was just one minute of real excitement, but it escaped most of the passengers. As the *Philadelphia* passed on her way a destroyer hovered in friendly fashion in the distance. Between the two vessels there suddenly appeared a dark object, looking for all the world like a submarine. Those who saw it expected shots from the warship every second, but soon a geyser-like spout arose, sending a stream of water skyward. The supposed submarine was a whale.

The six following days were made still more tedious through the absence of the orchestra which ordinarily drives away the dull hours in all American liners. Some ill-disposed persons insisted that the musicians had followed the example of those who preferred to remain in London, but the real reason was probably that they feared too long a rest in New York, as the *Philadelphia* was scheduled to lay up for repairs.

The *Philadelphia's* trip—which, although uneventful, was historical, inasmuch as she is the first ship to uphold the dignity of the American flag since the beginning of the "blockade"—ended as she steamed up New York Bay to-day, welcomed by the shrill blasts of the whistle and sirens of craft of every description in the harbour and both rivers.—*Times.*

VEGETARIAN DIET IN GERMANY.

WORKMEN'S CANTEEN CONDITIONS.

FOOD SENT HOME FROM THE TRENCHES.

[FROM "THE TIMES" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AT AMSTERDAM.]

I have received an account of German food conditions from an American engineer who has just arrived in Holland after spending a year in Germany. My informant described the feeding at some of the big engineering works, particularly Siemens'. Such works have canteens for clerks and workpeople. The same food is provided at both, but if you go round after the luncheon hour you find the men have left half a plate of soup, a bit of potato, and some carrot mash on their plates not consumed, whereas in the c'erks' canteen (in the words used to me) they about leave the bottom of the plate, that is all. The reason is that the workmen are making more money than ever before.

My informant knew many cases of men on piece-work making more than the men who supervised them. Salaried men save their money, desiring that their children should be better off than themselves, but the working men are not influenced by this motive. German workmen do not save, but put their extra earnings into food; consequently they do not feel the pinch, and the workman has frequently got a ham hanging up at home. Smuggled food at high prices is conveyed secretly in a knapsack or apron from the country. Expensive luxuries are purchased by workmen as well. The official classes get very little above their pre-war remuneration, and are saving any extra pay received.

My informant, who had fed at a canteen for 40pfgs. (6d.), said:—"You can get a meal, usually of potatoes and carrots, and sometimes a little meat, all boiled together into a mash. You get enough for 6d. to fill you up for the time being, but about an hour or two hours later you could eat the same quantity again if you could get it, but you cannot. This vegetable diet is filling at a price, but unsustaining. It does not last."

My informant added:—"I used to have a vegetarian fad myself before the war, but I now mean to eat all the red meat I can." Last week he and his landlady received 1lb. of sugar because there were no potatoes. He got about a thimbleful of milk with coffee because the landlady had two children who had milk, and she used to spare him that tiny quantity for coffee. She also had a reserve store of potatoes, so he usually got a potato. He received 60 grammes (about 1oz.) of butter, sufficient only for two breakfasts. He got 30 grammes (1oz.) of margarine besides, and gave this to the landlady to fry potatoes and meat.

People he used to go out with, and some of his German friends, who had a certain knack or free-masonry in their way of treating the waiters, benefited thereby. "If you just know how to treat the waiters you are able to get things that other people cannot at the restaurants. Similarly with the farmers. You can go out three hours from Berlin into the country and bring home a small private supply of potatoes. Undoubtedly the German Army has heaps of food, and men are sending it home. Men who had been behind the Western front for six months said everything was at the front and nothing at home. People were actually volunteering for duty at the front a second time—Landsturm men, etc.—in order to get food.

The Germans say that after the war every one will be obliged to work harder than ever before in order to get things reconstructed, because the first nation to get its home affairs started right again will be the first in the world market.

It is quite impossible to get a really impartial view of the war, because, however much you might hope to do so, you cannot help being affected by the view taken by your environment."

My informant knew Americans who had been in France, and who declared that there was simply not the ghost or the shadow of a chance for the Germans. Similarly, Americans in Germany held the view that there was no chance for the *Entente*, while Americans from England were of opinion that Great Britain was the only country counting in the war. My informant added that the German Army seemed to have plenty of new motors and new tires.

OUR EMPIRE'S FUTURE.

THE MIRACLE THAT HAS BEEN WORKED DURING THE WAR.

SPEECHES BY LORD MILNER AND SIR E. MORRIS.

A note of buoyant confidence, coupled with an earnest appeal for preparedness, characterized the speeches delivered by Viscount Milner (member of the War Cabinet) and Sir Edward Morris (Prime Minister of Newfoundland) at the Savoy Hotel recently. The occasion was a luncheon given by the British Empire Producers' Organisation, at which Lord Milner presided, and the Premier of Newfoundland was the guest of the ocension.

SIGNIFICANCE OF EMPIRE COUNCIL.

Viscount Milner, in proposing the health of the guest, dwelt on the fact that the movement represented by the British Empire Producers' Organization lies outside our old and barren economic controversies. It belongs, he said, to the fresh order of ideas, to the era of construction, of building up on new and fruitful lines to follow the frightful welter of waste and destruction through which we are passing. Its guiding principle is to regard the Empire as an economic whole, to promote the thorough and systematic study of all its productive capacities, to make it, as it can be made, independent and self-supporting in respect of all basic and vital industries.

After referring to the significance of the fact that representatives of the Dominions and India were taking part in a series of special meetings of the War Cabinet, Lord Milner proceeded:

A time may come, I hope and believe a time must come, when the supreme direction of Imperial affairs will be in the hands of a Government representative of and responsible to the people of all the States of which the Empire is composed. (Cheers.) But we cannot realize that ideal to-day, though we may take a step or two in the right direction. The circumstances of the time are not favourable to a great act of constitutional reconstruction. We must work with the machinery we have got. The struggle in which we are engaged absorbs, and rightly absorbs, all our thoughts and efforts. But we must carry on that struggle not only in the interests of the whole, but with all the resources of the whole, and not only all the material, but all the mental and moral resources, all the enthusiasm and devotion, all the wisdom and counsel that the Empire and provide. (Cheers.) In the hands of the Government of the United Kingdom rests of necessity, as far as the British Empire is concerned, the supreme direction of the war. It is the only body which is in a position to exercise, in conjunction with the Governments of the Allied nations, a continuous control over military and naval operations. In the discharge of that duty we are constitutionally responsible only to the people of the United Kingdom. But we are morally responsible to the whole Empire. (Hear, hear.) Under his Majesty the King, who is the Sovereign of every part of it, we are the trustees of the interests of all its peoples. And so we are anxious, as far as humanly possible, to assure ourselves that we are acting not only in accordance with our own judgment, but also with that of the men who enjoy the confidence of our fellow-subjects across the seas. That is the meaning and the purpose of the invitation we have addressed to them. And we are grateful, Sir Edward Morris, for the response which that invitation has elicited. Nobody can fail to realize the difficulties which beset the assembling of statesmen, every one of whom has urgent duties in his own country, at a single centre in a time of crisis like the result will more than compensate for all the personal sacrifices which have been made. (Cheers.)

WONDER OF THE WORLD.

Sir Edward Morris, who met with a most cordial reception, began by observing that all the seven wonders of the world paled into insignificance compared with the wonder the British people had worked within the last three years. Did the people of the British Isles really appreciate what they had accomplished? Britain, with a population only a little more than that of France, was summoned to arms at a time when she had practically no soldiers and no arms, and inside of forty months she was better equipped than Germany, which had been preparing for war for forty years. When one considered our Army of 5,000,000 men, our wealth of shells and munitions, our conquest of the air, and the manner in which millions of money had rained into the coffers of the war chest, the whole story read more like a romance than a stern and invincible reality. We were feeding the armies of France, supplying the armies of Russia, and maintaining the armies of Belgium and Servia. Moreover, we had lent to our faithful Allies £600,000,000—three times the debt of the United States of America. For an Empire that was totally unprepared we had wrought a miracle, and the greatest miracle of all was the welding together of the British Empire. The German Emperor had done for the British Empire what a hundred years of Acts of Parliament never could have accomplished. (Cheers.) No Imperial Parliament and no confederation of the Empire, no new constitution could weld more closely together and create closer ties in the Empire than had been accomplished by this war. (Hear, hear.) All the civilized nations of the world—those who were not under the thumb of Germany or honeycombed by German influence—were with us in this gigantic struggle, and felt, as we did, that we were fighting their battles.

A SELF-CONTAINED EMPIRE.

We were not prepared for war, said Sir Edward Morris. Are we prepared for peace? Whatever excuse there was for our unpreparedness for war, there can be no excuse if we are not prepared when peace comes. We shall have to meet enormously increased debt and taxation. How is this to be met? There is only one way to meet it, and that is by increasing

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SUPPLIES FOR NEUTRAL SHIPS.

FOOD LEAKAGE STOPPED.

A measure of supervision has now been introduced respecting the supplies of foodstuffs and stores taken on board neutral vessels calling at British ports. Public attention was directed some months ago to the fact that there were then no restrictions of any sort as regards the shipment of foodstuffs, provided they were described as being for ships' use. Cases have undoubtedly occurred in which unduly large supplies were shipped by neutral vessels, especially by those proceeding to countries contiguous to Germany. It would be entirely anomalous if vessels were to be allowed to ship freely, as stores, commodities the exportation of which is prohibited.

The new system of control is of a very elastic, general character, and there should be no occasion whatever for any neutral owners to misconstrue it. It has certainly been conceived in no hostile spirit to them, but is due rather to a public demand that a leakage of supplies, however small it might be, which did in some instances amount to an abuse of the freedom, should be effectively closed. In future the lists of quantities of foodstuffs and stores required by the master of a neutral vessel will be submitted to the Board of Trade Surveyor at the port, and, if he approve the quantities, the shipment will be facilitated by the Customs officials. It is not intended that any hard-and-fast line should be drawn. All the circumstances will be taken into account, such as the amount the vessel has on board at the time, the length of the voyage, and whether supplies of the kind most needed can be obtained at the next port of call. It is well known that a large number of neutral vessels are employed in British trade, and there is no reason why such ships should not have the same call on British supplies as British ships. The tendency would be to give every possible assistance to neutral vessels finding employment in British trade. There is, indeed, now a good deal of good-natured growling among British owners that the conditions of trading are being made almost too attractive for freight vessels, especially as the increased rates of freight lately specified under the French and Italian limitation schemes allow profits to neutrals many times larger than any that British owners can possibly earn.

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the productivity of not only these Islands, but of the whole British Empire. (Cheers.) Our aim should be to raise and manufacture within the Empire all that is required by the Empire—in other words, all raw material in the Empire on land and sea should be developed, and no raw material should leave the Empire until increased in value by the process of manufacture. Nothing should be imported into the Empire that can be raised or manufactured in the Empire. When this is made clear to the authorities that as good an article and as cheap can be manufactured or raised, when this is demonstrated, then foreign products should be absolutely excluded and prohibited. But I hear someone say: How will the consumer be protected from the avarice of the producer, or how will the man who has to buy for his family be protected from having to pay a high price when foreign competition ceases? Simply by the State controlling the price, by fixing the maximum price over which the products shall not be sold, and in that way successfully competing with the foreign article too often sent in merely for dumping purposes, to catch a market, selling at low rates, often the outcome of prison and sweated labour. It is to accomplish this that the British Empire Producers' Organization has been formed, and whose work is the most hopeful sign of the dawn of a new trade era for our Empire. (Hear, hear.) The principles of this association, namely, the making the Empire self-supporting and to remove from our industry and commerce all German influence and control, must commend themselves to every Briton. (Hear, hear.) The principles of this association, namely, the making the Empire self-supporting and commerce all German influence and control, must commend themselves to every Briton. (Hear, hear.) There can be no political independence in a nation unless it is economically independent. If one-fiftieth part of the money and energy now being expended in the great war had been expended in the developing the great estates of the Empire, as well as the Homeland, we should have had such wealth in the Empire, our people would have earned such high wages as to enable them to pay taxes for the proper upkeep and defence of the Empire, which in turn would mean that there would have been no war. (Cheers.)

THE CASE OF SUGAR.

As an illustration of how we have been bamboozled by Germany, Sir Edward Morris mentioned the case of sugar. Prior to the war the United Kingdom imported 2,000,000 tons of sugar per annum, and would have doubled that amount if her sugar-using industries had been developed to half the requirements of the Empire. Of this quantity Germany and Austria supplied us with 1,300,000 tons; yet the British Empire was quite capable of supplying all the sugar required from within the Empire. The British West Indies were not producing one-tenth of what the labour there could produce if it had reasonable protection and a market. Why should these things be withheld from them, and why should they not be placed in a position to buy with their earned gold the British goods which they required? The whole thing could be carried out without any appreciable increase in the price of sugar. To take two other illustrations—the United States controlled five-sixths of the Empire's tobacco-selling trade, and one millionaire living at Long Island, New York, with 60,000 branches all over the world, did nineteen-twentieths of the sale and manufacture of sewing machines. These were examples to the British Empire producers of what had to be achieved in the way of organization. (Cheers.)

MAIN TO DANUBE.

"CENTRAL EUROPE'S" WATERWAY.

THE BAVARIAN SCHEME.

[BY THE FORMER BERLIN CORRESPONDENT OF THE "TIMES."]

As already briefly reported, the Bavarian Diet has passed the new Danube-Main Canal Bill. The canalization of the Main as far as Aschaffenburg is about to be completed; the Bavarian Bill is to prepare for the construction of a great new waterway from Aschaffenburg to the Austro-German frontier.

The Bill, which was introduced by the Bavarian Government at the beginning of April, merely provides for the allocation of £50,250 as first instalment of the cost of completing the plans for the new waterway. It is calculated that the plans can be completed in about three years and will cost about £250,000. Although no definite arrangements have been made, Bavaria expects that three-fifths of the cost of the plans will be borne by the Empire and by interested towns, industrial undertakings, and persons. The other two-fifths will be provided by Bavaria—the present Bill, as already explained, covering the first instalment.

The route will be, practically, that of the Main from Aschaffenburg to Bamberg, and that of the Danube from Steppberg to Passau. Considerable new works will be required on both rivers, but the great feature of the scheme is the proposed new canal from the Main at Bamberg to the Danube at Steppberg. There is already connection between the Main and the old "Ludwig Canal," which was built by King Ludwig I. of Bavaria between 1836 and 1840. But whereas the old, and now almost useless, canal takes a more direct course from the Main at Bamberg to the Danube just west of Ratisbon, the new canal will go southwards from a point near Nuremberg to Steppberg, joining the Danube there. The reason is that the necessary water can be obtained only from the Danube or its southern tributaries.

The whole waterway will be 734 kilometres (about 460 miles) in length, and it is estimated that the cost of construction will be £32,500,000 and that the whole expenditure can be covered by revenue if there is an annual traffic of 10,000,000 tons. It is also assumed that inland waterways generally will profit for many years after the war by scarcity of tonnage and high freights for sea traffic.

KING OF BAVARIA'S TRIUMPH.

The adoption of the scheme at the present time is a great personal triumph for the King of Bavaria, and the most important expression of the policy at which he has laboured for years—a policy which pictures big ships passing freely from Rotterdom to the Black Sea. As already explained, the King of Bavaria looks for assistance ultimately to the Empire, but there is no definite evidence that he has yet asked for it—still less that he has troubled himself about the Prussian attitude towards his patriotic plans. Not merely does the enthusastic Bavarian support of the new scheme contrast with the famous defeat by the Prussian agrarian "canal rebels" in 1889 of the Kaiser's "Midland Canal" scheme, but Prussia has always pursued an anti-Bavarian waterways policy. During a debate in the Prussian Diet recently Dr. Lippmann, a Radical deputy, observed:—

I really do not understand the reserved attitude of our Minister when the King of Bavaria, with the zeal of a boy, has thrown himself into the Danube-Main Canal scheme so that negotiations are nearly completed. If the scheme is carried out the Danube will be linked up with the West, but the East will not be linked up with the Danube. The Danube-Oder Canal is an urgent demand of East Germany and German inland shipping. If we had had the Midland Canal it could have done very much useful work during the war. Why has our Government not overcome the opposition? Nothing has been done in Prussia since 1905.

The Railways Minister, Herr von Breitenbach, thus pressed, said that the Prussian Government had not yet "officially" considered the Danube-Main Canal. Only "quite recently" had he been officially informed of the matter by the Imperial Government. Herr von Breitenbach added that he "follows the scheme with sympathy," but there was no indication that the Prussian agrarians do likewise, or that they have ceased to oppose all measures which might cheapen the importation and transport of food. They still, it seems, disagree with Goethe, who in 1827 said that he would like to live to see the opening of a Panama Canal, and also a communication between the Danube and the Rhine, although he doubted the possibility of the latter "in view of the extent of German resources."

POLITICAL AND MILITARY IMPORTANCE.

According to the preliminary plans the new canal is intended for 1,200-ton ships; the canalization of the Main to Aschaffenburg, now being completed, provides for 1,500-ton ships. Some of the remarks in the explanatory statement appended to the new Bavarian Bill are worth quoting. It begins by saying:—

Our experiences in the present war, and consideration for the future economic relations between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Austria-Hungary's eastern neighbours, suggest at once that we should contemplate the construction, at an early date, of a connection between the Main and the Danube for big ships. An efficient Rhine-Danube waterway, in addition to the existing railway communications, has proved necessary for economic and strategic reasons for traffic between the German Empire and Austria-Hungary and the Balkan States. It will strengthen permanently the Central European group and its economic and military defences and it will promote a closer economic union of the States belonging to this group.

The explanatory statement insists as follows upon the military importance of the scheme:—

The demands upon traffic routes have grown extraordinarily in the present war. Only with difficulty, in view of the great extension of the theatre of war, are the railway administrations also to satisfy the traffic requirements of the Army.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

Waerways which supplement and relieve the railways are therefore of the greatest advantage. In particular, the existence of an efficient big-ship connection of the Rhine with the Danube, for the purpose of co-operation in the service of the transport traffic, which has been very great, especially during the war, would have been of high importance. By the employment of such a waterway, constructed for a traffic of 10,000,000 tons, we should have relieved railway engines and goods-wagons for 800,000 wagon-loads (a year). There is no necessity to explain further the extent to which, from the point of view of success in war, Germany's economic strength would have been increased. To this must be added the high military importance of the waterway, which lies in the fact that it would very considerably increase our power to make use of the advantages of inner lines.

PRUSSIA'S FOOD.

CRITICAL SITUATION.

DICTATOR'S ADMISSIONS.

In the Prussian Diet recently Herr Michaelis, Prussian State Commissioner for the Feeding of the People, made what the *Kölnische Zeitung* describes as a serious speech. Herr Michaelis said:—

The office which has been entrusted to me had its origin in the very great anxiety in which we live regarding our food questions. This anxiety is especially grave, not only owing to the fact that the weather conditions have dislocated our entire supply, thus producing distress of such a kind that a severe state of things, especially in the large industrial centres, could hardly be imagined, but owing to the fact that our apprehensions extend to the whole of the year that lies before us. We have to reckon with the fact that the inventory made on January 15th will not result, as many hoped it would, in the October estimates proving too small and a consequent surplus being left in our granaries. If, as I reckon, such is the case, we shall be faced with an extremely difficult problem, and must adopt very radical measures in order to attain the aim which has, of course, to be attained, namely, that of holding out. This view of the situation has not been equally well disseminated everywhere. As regards grain for bread, for instance, there is a prevalent opinion that because we did pretty well for two years we shall, therefore, again do well the third year. The remedying of other scarcity which arises, such as the lack of potatoes, is then shifted on to bread grain, which is treated as an available substitute. When, however, the inventory produces no better result than the previous estimates then there is cause for grave anxiety also with regard to grain for bread.

We have in the third year of the war discovered that among all parts of the people the general feeling evinced is not one of that endurance (Standhaftigkeit) for which we had hoped. This is human nature, but it is to a high degree deplorable, and may have the most serious results. We have not perceived at the towns that stern supervision which is absolutely necessary in the distribution of foodstuffs. Among large numbers of bakers covert resistance to the Government's measures can be observed. More food-stuffs have been consumed, and the consumption has been more irregular than the general interests admit. There has been widespread abuse of bread tickets, an abuse which entails the most serious consequence as regards our stocks. In one western town there have been great difficulties in supplying food, resulting in cessation of work and other more dismal things. These difficulties must be attributed to the fact that bread tickets have been forged and illegally used on so shocking a scale that the entire reserves have been used up, and when the potatoes failed and bread was to be given as a substitute no bread was available. In the mills, particularly the smaller mills, the existing regulations have been disobeyed, and the consumption of flour, which is the result, has reduced our supplies in the most shocking manner. Moreover, there has been a widespread use of grain as fodder.

"WHILE THERE IS YET TIME."

What has to be done now is to get to work while there is yet time, and to act with all possible vigour and severity.

Herr Hoffmann (Socialist): Yes, if you dared.

All departments agree that something [illegible] steps can be taken without seriously encroaching upon existing interests. Some mills will have to be closed, and in certain circumstances municipalities will be deprived of [illegible] autonomous powers. Effective measures must be achieved by concentrating the functions of the rural authorities in the person of the State Commissioner (Herr Michaelis himself). Foodstuffs which have not been placed strictly under the rationing regulations or seized, such as eggs, milk, butter, fruit, and vegetables, must be made available for the improvement of the food supplies of the people. We are confronted with the thought of what would happen if that does not succeed, and the grim starvation that there would be if suddenly, during the closing months of the economic year, we find that there is not enough, and that we cannot hold out. The misery that would ensue would be indescribable.

The speech was loudly applauded by the Left and Centre, but some commotion was caused by a derisive remark made by Herr Hoffmann at the expense of the Conservatives.

Herr Hofer (Socialist) followed Herr Michaelis. According to the *Rheinisch-Westfaelische Zeitung's* report he said:—The junkers are to blame if there is hunger in the land. An attempt is being made to shift the blame on to the British. The selfishness of the agrarians is to blame for the highest prices.

The Minister of Agriculture vigorously defended himself against his opponents. He said that it was a consolation to him to remember that the Reichstag was luckily unable to appoint or depose Prussian Ministers. He referred to the "critical situation created by the partial success of the *Entente's* plan of starvation." As regards the small bread ration, he said:—"The good God (der liebe herr Gott) alone is responsible for it, inasmuch as he has not given us the harvest we had expected." He added that there was very little hope of a decrease in meat prices.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-NIGHT.

9.15 p.m.—Chung Ling Soo Performance at the Theatre Royal.

TO-MORROW.

Noon—Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., Ordinary General Meeting.

5 p.m.—Matinee Performance of Chung Ling Soo at the Theatre Royal.

Wednesday, 9th May:—

11 a.m.—Auction of Tabloids, Malt and Oil, &c., at Sales Rooms, by Mr. Geo. P. Lammert.

Noon—Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Ordinary General Meeting.

Tuesday, 31st July:—

Noon—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property from the Liquidators of Messrs. Jebsen & Co., by Mr. Geo. P. Lammert.

THEATRE ROYAL.

FOR THREE NIGHTS ONLY.

TO-NIGHT (FRIDAY), MAY 4TH.

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AND VAUDEVILLE CO. FROM LEADING LONDON HALLS.

"ALL SOO" MATINEE SAT. AT 5 P.M.

Prices $3, $2. and 1. Children Half-Price.

EVENING PRICES AS USUAL. BOOKING AT MOUTRIE'S.

Soldier and Sailors Half-Price to Pit and Gallery.

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Yet in the game—Sargol makes Puny, Peevish People Plump and Popular

SARGOL, the concentrated food that puts on good, healthy flesh, sometimes at the rate of a pound a day, builds up the thin and weak, brings back the rosy blush of health, rounds out the skinny, scrawny figures to lines of beauty and plumpness, does it easy, quickly and effectively.

You don't understand it? Well, to tell the truth, neither do we. But after a long series of costly experiments we "hit upon an idea" and produced a combination of tissue-building elements, which have performed wonders in making thin people plump and fat.

Sargol was made to put flesh on thin folks, but we don't understand one-half the other remarkable things it does for the thin and underdeveloped, the pale and the weak, the dull and the listless. It is not a drug nor a stimulant, but can be best classed as a concentrated food with high tissue-building qualities. A food that creates rich, red blood, builds brain and brawn, hardens flabby muscles and makes even a confirmed dyspeptic "sit up and take notice." In building tissue it has a higher value than good beefsteak or eggs.

Sargol helps you to assimilate your food, to get the utmost good out of every mouthful. Take it with your meals for a few days, the test will tell. See how your digestion has improved, how the blue melancholy feeling goes, how good your meals taste.

A few days more and you begin to take on flesh. You look better, act better, you can do more, do it quicker and easier. Your friend slaps you on the shoulder and says: "Hello, Bill, you're looking fine, never saw you looking better."

But you don't need to be told this. You know it yourself. You know you are gaining weight, feeling more fit than you have felt for years.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD., VICTORIA DISPENSARY, | THE PHARMACY, QUEEN'S DISPENSARY, THE EDWARD DISPENSARY. [57-5

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Superior to Emulsions or Cod Liver oil.

Each tiny Morrhuol capsule represents the medicinal value of a teaspoonful of oil.

Recommended at the Paris Academy of Medicine, for loss of appetite and flesh, to patients with consumptive tendencies.

Sold in bottles of 100 Capsules, sold by all Chemists.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS.

CAVANBA, British str., 981, Hadson, 2nd May—Port Courbet 30th April, Coal —Order.

CHINGCHOW, British str., 1,159, Jas. Doyle, 2nd May—Port Parseval 30th April, Lime Stone—Shewan, Tomes & Co.

FEICHING, Chinese str., 980, A. B. Baines, 2nd May—Shanghai 29th April, General.—Order.

KOYO MARU, Japanese str., 867 S. Kijila, 2nd May—Bangkok 21st April, Rice. —Order.

KAIJO MARU, Japanese str., 1,126, K. Egawa, 3rd May—Swatow 2nd May, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

TAGA MARU, Japanese str., 1,477, Kanai, 3rd May—Keelung 30th April, Coal. —Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

YATSHING, British str., 1,424, R. Y. Anderson, 2nd May—Kobe 25th April, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

YINGCHOW, British str., 1,216, J. Gibbs, 2nd May—Shanghai 29th April, General—Butterfield & Swire.

WEATHER REPORT

On May 3rd at 11.50.—No returns from Japan or Ind.-China. Pressure has decreased moderately to slightly in other districts.

Pressure gradients appear to be shallow from the Yangtze Valley to the Philippines.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since 1st January, 8.65 inches against an average of 12.32 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

DISTRICT	FORECAST.
Hongkong to Gap Rock	Light variable winds, fine.
Formosa Channel	The same as No. 1.
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Lamocks	The same as No. 1.
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan	The same as No. 1.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

3RD MAY, A.M.

Station.	Hour.	Barometer at Sea Level	Temperature.	Humidity.	Wind Direction.	Wind Force.	Weather.	Rain
Vladivostock	6 a.	29.71	61	—	—	W	4	bh
Nemuro	5 a.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hakodate	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tokio	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kochi	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagasaki	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kagoshima	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oshima	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Naha	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ishi'jima	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bonin Is.	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chefoo	6 a.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weihaiwei	"	29.83	46	77	E	4	c	—
Hankow	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ichang	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kiukiang	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Changsha	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai	"	29.84	57	89	SSW	6	r	—
Gutzlaff	"	29.84	58	81	W.W	6	r	—
Sharp Peak	"	29.88	64	92	W	6	r	—
Amoy	8 a.	29.84	66	c.	calm	0	c	—
Swatow	6 a.	29.86	64	10	—	0	c	—
Taihoku	5 a.	29.84	63	82	—	0	c	—
Taichu	"	29.85	60	—	—	0	c	—
Tainan	"	29.84	64	—	NW	1	c	—
Koshun	"	29.84	70	—	W	2	c	—
Pescadores	"	29.84	66	—	—	0	c	—
Canton	6 a.	29.89	t4	95	—	0	o	—
Hongkong	"	29.87	68	78	NW	1	o	—
Gap Rock	"	29.87	—	—	—	0	o	—
Macao	"	29.84	66	88	NNW	1	of	—
Wuchow	9 a.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hoihow	"	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pakhoi	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phulien	7 a.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tourane	"	—	—	—	S	—	—	—
Capes St. James	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aparri	6 a.	29.79	75	92	—	2	c	—
Dagupan	"	29.74	75	88	—	0	b	—
Manila	"	29.74	75	81	—	0	c	—
Lega	"	29.75	78	89	—	0	c	—
Tacloban	"	29.76	76	95	—	0	c	—
Iloilo	"	29.73	79	89	NE	2	c	—
Surigao	"	29.75	77	90	—	0	c	—
Labua	"	29.78	80	95	SW	4	r	—

T. E. CLAXTON, *Director.*

1, BAROMETER, reduced to 32 degrees Fahrenheit, on the level of the sea in inches, tenths and hundredths.

2. TEMPERATURE, in the shade, in degrees Fahrenheit.

3. HUMIDITY, in percentage of saturation, the humidity of air saturated with moisture being 100.

4. DIRECTION OF WIND, to two points.

5. FORCE OF WIND, according to Beaufort Scale.

6. STATE OF WEATHER, b blue sky, c detached cloud, d drizzling rain, f fog, g gloomy, h hail, l lightning, o overcast, p passing showers, q squalls, r rain, snow, t thunder, v visibility, w dew (wet).

7. RAIN in inches, tenths and hundreds.

HONGKONG METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

Hongkong Observatory, May 3rd.

	Previous Day at 2 p.m.	On Date at 6 a.m.	On Date at 2 p.m.
Barometer	29.92	29.87	29.77
Temperature	75	66	79
Humidity	43	78	51
Wind Direction	East	NW	West
" Force	3	1	2
Weather	b	b	b
Rain	—	—	—

Highest open-air Temperature on 2nd 75

Lowest open-air Temperature on 3rd 66

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65

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FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
KOBE and MOJI	"NAMSANG"	Friday, 4th May Noon.
SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE	"LAISANG"	Saturday, 5th May D'light.
MANILA	"YUENSANG"	Saturday, 5th May, 3 P.M.
TIENTSIN	"CHUSHING"	Tuesday, 8th May, D'light.
SHANGHAI	"WOSANG"	Tuesday, 8th May D'light.
SANDAKAN	"MAUSANG"	Thursday, 10th May, Noon.

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OF THE

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S.S. "ARAKAN"	20th May.
S.S. "TJISONDARI"	11th June.
S.S. "BINTANG"	12th July.

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"VONDEL"	18TH MAY.

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63

C. N. C.

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SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
TIENTSIN	"KUEICHOW" ...	On 6th May, D'light.
SHANGHAI	"YINGCHOW" ...	On 6th May, D'light.
HAIPHONG via PAKHOI	"KAIFONG" ...	On 6th May, 9 A.M.
SHANGHAI	"CHENAN" ...	On 8th May, 4 P.M.

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SHANGHAI, MOJI and KOBE
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NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA. ... ...
- TANGO MARU, Capt. Soyeda, 13,500, FRIDAY, 18th May, at 11 A.M.

SHANGHAI and KOBE. ... ...
- § KAMO MARU, Capt. Inadsu, 16,000, THURSDAY, 17th May, at 11 A.M.

SHANGHAI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA. ... ...
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NIPPON MARU	11,000	15 knots	THURS.,	14th June.
SHINYO MARU	22,000	21 knots	TUES.,	19th June
PERSIA MARU	9,000	14 knots	TUES.,	3rd July
KOREA MARU	16,000	18 knots	SATUR.,	14th July.

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(TRANS PACIFIC).

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NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connections are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

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"KAIJO MARU"	SUNDAY,	6th May, at Noon.
"SOSHU MARU"	THURSDAY,	10th May, at 8 A.M.
"AMAKUSA MARU"	SUNDAY,	13th May, at Noon.
"JOSHIN MARU"	MONDAY,	14th May, at 8 A.M.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 76 will be fixed.

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TEL. Nos. 744 and 745 M. HIGUCHI, Manager,
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The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

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For	On Week-Days	On Sundays & Holidays
Tai O ...	6.00 P.M.	—
Tai Po ...	10.00 A.M.	9.30 A.M.
Cheung Chow	2.00 P.M.	—
Shataukok, Shatin and Sheungshui	4.00 P.M.	—
Aberdeen, Antau, Ping Shan, Sai Kung	4.30 P.M.	—
Santin, Stanley		
Canton Samshui and Wuchow	7.30 A.M. Regis. 5.00 P.M. Letters 6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.
Macao	7.15 A.M. 1.30 P.M.	9.00 A.M.
Kongmoon	6.00 P.M. Except Saturdays	5.00 P.M.
Namtau and Sanmei	5.00 P.M.	5.00 P.M.
Shamchun	10.00 A.M. 4.00 P.M.	9.00 A.M.

From Sheungwan Western Branch P.O.

For	On Week-Days	On Sundays & Holidays	
Macao	7.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M.	8.30 A.M.	7.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M.
Canton	7.30 A.M.	9.30 P.M.	7.30 A.M. 9.30 P.M.
Tai Ping Tung	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
Shek Ki	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
Kongmoon	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.
Kumchuk	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.
Kaukong	6.00 P.M. Except Saturdays.	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.

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COMMERCIAL.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

	May 3rd.
On London.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/4⅜
Bank Bills, on demand ...	2/4⅜
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight ...	2/4⅜
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ...	2/4⅜
Credits, at 4 months' sight ...	2/5
Documentary Bills 4 months' sight	2/5
On Paris.—	
Bank Bills, on demand ...	324½
Credits, at 4 months' sight ...	335
On New York.—	
Bank Bills, on demand ...	56⅝
Credits, at 60 days' sight ...	—
On Bombay.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	—
Bank Bills, on demand ...	— nom.
On Calcutta.—	
Telegraphic Transfer ...	—
Bank Bills, on demand ...	— nom.
On Shanghai.—	
Bank Bills, at sight ...	nom.
Private, 30 days' sight ...	... 110⅛
On Yokohama.—On demand ...	113½
On Manila.—On demand—Pesos ...	101½
On Singapore.—On demand ...	135½
On Batavia.—On demand ...	3 2 p.m.n.
On Haiphong.—On demand ...	2½ pm.
On Saigon.—On demand ...	64½
On Bangkok.—On demand ...	6.30 n
Sovereign, Bank's Buying Rate ...	$46.00
Gold Leaf, 100 fine, per tael	37⅞d.
Bar Silver, per oz.	

Subsidiary Coins.

	per cent	
Hongkong...20 cents piece...	$0.05	Premium
Hongkong...10 " ...	$0.10	"
Canton ..... 20 " ...	$5.70	discount.
Canton .... 10 " ...	$5.70	"

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"Constant growth signifies constant merit."

SHARE LIST.—QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, 3rd May, 1917.

Stocks.	Paid up Value.	Official Quotation 10.30 A.M.	Closing Quotation.	Last Dividend.
Banks.—				
Hongkong and Shanghai ...	$125	$710, buyers		£4 16/- for 1916
Insurances.—				
Cantons	$50	$375		$25 for 1914
China Fires	$20	$146, buyers		$9 for 1915
Hongkong Fires	$50	$325, buyers		$27 for 1915
North Chinas	£5	Tls. 150		27½% for 1915
Unions	$100	$860, buyers		$60 for 1915
Yangtszes	$60	$217		$21 for 1915
Shipping.—				
Douglas S.S. Co.	$50	$85		$5 int. a/c 1916/17
				$1.25 for 1916
Canton Steamboats	$15	$18, buyers		3/- int. for 1916
Indo-China Pref.	$5	$414		10/- int. for 1916
Do. Def.	$5	$123		$2.10 for year ending 30·4·16
Star Ferry Co.	$10	$31½, buy.		
Engineers.—				
China Sugars	$100	$113½, buy.		$12 for 1916
Malabon Sugars	P30	$32		5 Ps. for 1916
Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—				
Kowloon Wharf Co.	$50	*79½		$4 and bonus of $2 for 1916
H. and W. Dock Co.	$50	$124, sales		$5 and bonus of $6 for 1916
Shanghai Docks	Tls. 100	Tls. 90, buy.		Tls. 7½ for year ending 30·4·16
Lands, Hotels, and Buildings.—				
Central Estates	$100	$100		$7 for 1916
Hongkong Hotels	$50	$102		$3 for ½ year
Hongkong Lands	$160	$97½		$7 for 1916
Humphreys Estates	$10	$64		50 cents for 1916
Kowloon Lands	$30	$33		$2 for 1916
West Points	$50	$77, buyers		$5.25 for 1916
Oils.—	£10	T. 161.xd iv.		Tl. 1 for year ending 31·10·15
Langkats	£1	buy.		2/- int. account 1916
Shells	£1	107/-		8% for 1915/16
Ural Caspian	£1	31/-		
Mining.—	£1	31 6		1/- int. act. year ending 30·6·16
Kai'ans	£1	$2.60		None since 1910
Raubs	£1	27/6, sellers		4/- int. account 1916
Tronoh				
Cotton Mills.—	Tls. 50	Tls 151		Tls. 9 for year ending 31·10·16
Ewo	Tls. 10	Tls 14.40, s. & b.		T. 0.90 for year ending 30·11·16
Kung Yik	Tls. 50	T. 120, buy		Tls. 6 for year ending 30·6·16
Shanghai	Tls. 5	T. 5½, sales		Nil for 1915
Yangtszepoo				
Miscellaneous.—	$12	$8		72 cents for 1915
China Borneos	$5	$4½, buyers		None since 1906
China Lights	$10	$8		70 cents for 1916
China Providents	$5	$2¾, buyers		$3 for year ending 31·7·16
Dairy Farms	$7½	$3.05, buy.		80 cents for 1916
Green Island Cement	$10	$3.10, sales		$2.25 for year ending 29·2·16
Hongkong Electrics	$25	$52, buyers		$11 for 1916
Hongkong Ices	$10	$151		$2 and bonus of $1 for 1916
Hongkong Ropes	$10	$28½		None for year ending 31·5·16
Hongkong Steels	5/-	$10		30% for 1916
Hongkong Trams	$10	$6.80, sales	$6.80, buy.	7% for year ending do. [30·4·16
Peak Trams Old	$1	$9.80		25 cents for year ending 31·5·16
Do. New	$5	$1		$1.25 for 1916
Steam Laundries	$10	$3.40, buy.		70 cents for 1915
Union Waterboats	$10	$16		None since 1914
Watson & Co.	$10	$61, buyers		
Wm. Powell, Limited	$7	$6.80, s. & b.		

Rubbers. (Singapore Currency)	Paid up Value.	Year Ends.	Latest Quotation.	Dividend for Last Year.	Int. Div. to Date.
Alor Gajahs	$1	Sept.	$4.20	65 p. c.	20 p. c.
Ayer Panas	$5	Jan.	$12.30	35 p. c.	10 p. c.
Glenealy	$1	Oct.	$2.65	30 p. c.	—
Kedah	$1	Apl.	$4.35	42½ p. c.	30 p. c.
Kempas	$2	June	$3.10	40 p. c.	15 p. c.
Malaka Pindas	$1	Aug.	$2.70	30 p. c.	10 p. c.
Malakoff	$2	Dec.	$4.80	30 p. c.	—
New Serendah	$2	Dec.	$4.50	25 p. c.	—
Sandycroft	$2	Jan.	$5.20	28 p. c.	20 p. c.
Tapah	$10	Dec.	$21.25	35 p. c.	—
Plantation Rubber in London ...			3/-½		

VERNON & SMYTH. Share Brokers.

BANKS

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid-up Capital $15,000,000
Reserve Funds:—
Sterling £1,500,000, at 2/— $15,000,000
Silver $18,500,000
$33,500,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors $15,000,000

Court of Directors:

S. H. Dodwell, Esq.—Chairman.
J. A. Plummer, Esq.—Deputy Chairman.
Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton, G. T. M. Edkins, Esq., C. S. Gubbay, Esq., E. V. D. Parr, Esq., W. L. Pattenden, Esq., Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak.

Chief Manager:

Hongkong—N. J. Stabb, Esq.

Managers:

Shanghai—A. G. Stephen, Esq.

London Banker:

LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

Hongkong Interest Allowed.

On Current Account at the rate of Two per cent. per annum on the Daily Balance.

On Fixed Deposits.

For 3 months, 2½ per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 3½ " "
" 12 " 4 " "

N. J. STABB, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 26th February, 1917. [9

THE BANK OF CHINA. GOVERNMENT BANK.

(Specially Authorised by Presidential Mandate of 15th April, 1913.)

Authorised Capital $60,000,000
Paid-up Capital $10,000,000

HEAD OFFICE.—PEKING.

BRANCHES AND SUB-BRANCHES,

Shanghai: Nanking, Chinkiang, Yangchow, Wusieh, Wuhu, Anshing, Tatung, Tsinkiangpo, Soochow. Hankow: Shashi, Ichang, Nanchang. Tientsin: Paoting, Tongshan, Luanhsien, Tsanghsien, Hsingtai. Hangchow: Weichow, Shaohsin, Chishsin, Lanchi, Huchow, Ningpo, Kaifeng: Changteh, Sinyang, Loho, Chowkou. Tsinan: Chowtsun, Tsuhsien, Linchi, Lintsing, Tsinien, Yihtuh, Huiming, Chefoo, Tsingtao. Taiyuan: Yuncheng. Foochow. Changchun: Kirin, Moukden, Newchwang, Dairen, Harbin, Tsitsihar, Tieling, Chinchow, Antung. Canton. Kuikiang, Peking, Knaihu's Suiyuancheng, etc., etc.

CANTON BRANCH.

Interest allowed on current accounts and Fixed Deposits. Terms on application. Every description of Banking business transacted. loans granted on approved securities. Special facilities for Home Exchange.

Hongkong 13th October, 1914. [674

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter. 1853

Head Office—London.

Paid-up Capital £1,200 000
Reserve Fund £1,800,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors £1,200,000

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking business transacted.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and FIXED DEPOSITS received for 1 year or shorter periods at rates which will be quoted on application.

T. C. DOWNING, Manager.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1915. [141

BANKS

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED (Taiwan Ginko).

Incorporated by Special Imperial Charter, 1899.

Capital Subscribed ... ... Yen 20,000,000
Capital Paid-up ... ... " 15,000,000
Reserve Funds ... ... " 5,080,000

HEAD OFFICE:
TAIPEH, FORMOSA.

BRANCHES:

JAPAN—Kobe, Osaka, Tokio & Yokohama.
FORMOSA—Ako, Giban, Kagi, Karenko Keelung, Makung, Pinan, Shinchiku, Taichu, Taiwan, Takow, Tamsui.
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OTHERS—Hongkong, London, Singapore Sombabaia, Semarang & New York.

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Capital and Counties Bank, London, and South-Western Bank, Parr's Bank

The Bank has Correspondents in the Commercial centres of Russia, Manchuria, Indo China, India, Philippine Islands, Java, Australia America, and elsewhere.

N. YANAGITA Manager.

HONGKONG BRANCH,
3, Des Voeux Road,
Hongkong, 10th March, 1917. [600

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch St., London

Authorised Capital £1,500,000
Subscribed " 1,125,000
Paid-up " 562,500
Reserve Fund " 600,000

Bankers:
The Bank of England,
The London Joint Stock Bank, Limited

Branches:

Bombay	Galle	Karachi	Penang
Calcutta	Hongkong	Kots Bhara	Rangoon
Colombo	Howrah	Kuala Lumpur	Shanghai
Delhi	Kandy	Madras	Singapore
Port Louis (Mauritius).			

Hongkong Branch.

Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

INTEREST allowed on Current Accounts at 2 per cent. per annum on Daily Balances and on Fixed Deposits at rates that may be ascertained on application.

C. CHAMPKIN, Acting Manager.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1916. [92

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed on the Minimum Monthly Balances at 3% per cent per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option balances of $100 or more to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to be placed on FIXED DEPOSIT at 4 per cent. per annum.

For the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,
N. J. STABB,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong 2nd November, 1914. [10

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